



June 2020

Dear Boarding Parent,

It has been 11 weeks since Covid-19 caused the UK to enter 'lockdown' and since then we have all had to adjust to the 'new normal'. Teaching using Teams has enabled us to keep in contact and deliver lessons. As well as remote lessons we have been providing somewhere safe for the children of key workers here at school. This has allowed us to put in place measures to keep children and staff safe. Measures such as putting children into small classes of less than 15 so they can maintain the 2m social distance. A team of staff is allocated to each class and they do not work with any other classes. Each class has its own classroom and break area. Pupils are encouraged to practice regular and thorough hand washing. Lunch times have social distancing in place for queuing and seating. Pupils are not wearing blazers, so it is easier to follow the advice from Public Health England to wash clothes each day when the child returns from school. Keeping the separation between classes is essential because, if a child does become unwell with the Covid-19 virus, we need to limit the potential for it spreading. I think we all share a common goal of wanting to have pupils back in school as soon as possible. Only then will they be able to enjoy the experience of learning alongside their peers and to benefit from the many other opportunities on offer such as co-curricular activities.



We are a member of the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA). They confer with the Government to ensure that boarding concerns are considered in Government plans and are a great source of advice on these plans. The BSA has produced a helpful COVID SAFE charter which we are following and you may find useful to read <https://www.boarding.org.uk/userfiles/bsa/Covid%20documents/Covid%20Safe%20Charter.pdf>

One of the main concerns for boarder parents is the potential need for overseas pupils to spend two weeks in quarantine when they come to the UK. If the need for quarantine continues and Government rules allow it we are minded to reopen one of our boarding houses two weeks before the start of term for overseas pupils. At the moment we are advised by the BSA that Government guidelines may not allow for an early return to school and are looking for

further clarification. If we are able to look after your son/daughter for quarantine we would collect them from the airport should they need it.

The BSA's current reading of the situation is that there might still be restrictions in place with potentially not all returning for the start of the month of September. This uncertainty with the return date as well as the uncertainty in the quarantine arrangements makes it very hard for us to advise you about purchasing airline tickets. Our advice at this time is to wait, we will be in contact again to help you with this decision.

We have been advised that each boarding house can be considered a household, so we won't need to restrict the number of boarders. There might, however, be a requirement to continue to have smaller class sizes. If this is the case we might need to consider teaching a limited number of pupils at a time, in a staggered timetable, and to make alternative provision for boarders when they are not in lessons. This might change but whatever we offer will, of course, comply with relevant Government guidance. The start of the Michaelmas Term is still two and a half months away, and I sincerely hope that the School can open as usual but we do need to prepare for every eventuality. I will write again when I have more details about reopening in September. In the meantime, please be reassured that whatever happens, we will do whatever we can to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children attending LRGS.

Yours faithfully,

Dr David Rowe  
Head of Boarding