

Lancaster Royal Grammar School

East Road Lancaster LA1 3EF

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Dr D R Rowe Head of Boarding

July 2020

Dear Boarding Parent

I wrote to you in June about our plans for boarding and promised to write again as these developed. Since then Her Majesty's Government has issued more guidance and we are better informed about what school and boarding life will look like next year.

The school and boarding will operate in a number of bubbles. In the day school these will be based upon year groups. In boarding they will be the boarding houses and where possible further bubbles will operate within the largest houses. These will be based upon where the boarders live and who they live next to.

We are putting into place various control measures in boarding to keep the boys and girls safe. For example boarders are not to go into each other's rooms. We will have hand cleansing stations in communal areas and enforce hand washing throughout. Meals will be taken separately by the different houses and the dining hall cleaned between each sitting to help separate the bubbles.

I would like to keep you informed about our contingency plans. If a boarder shows or reports symptoms of COVID19 he/she will need to be seen by medical staff right away. If this is impossible due to the unavailability of staff at that time then the boarder is to isolate in his/her room with his/her dorm mates and any others identified as at risk until seen by medical staff. Medical staff are then to decide if the boarders may have COVID19 in which case they will be taken for testing and then continue isolating until the results are published. If any of the tests are positive then the bubble will need to isolate for 14 days. We have been advised that boarders with symptoms are not to go to guardians but may go home although not by public transport. In the event that your son/daughter were to be isolated and you intend for him/her to be collected and come home then please inform the housemaster at the start of term so he can make plans and keep you informed.

The need to quarantine has been removed for all but a very small number of boarders and as such means that we will not be opening in mid-August. The following link gives details of those countries from which travellers need to quarantine.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

Our advice to those who are required to quarantine is to return to the UK two weeks before term starts and complete quarantine with a relative/guardian before coming to school for the start of term.

Please be aware of the slight change of dates as below:

Wednesday 2nd September term starts for Year 7 and the Lower Sixth.

Thursday 3rd September term starts for Years 9 and 10.

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Friday 4th September terms starts for the Upper Sixth.

Monday 7th September terms starts for Years 8 and 11.

We are maintaining a no visitor policy for the time being. This includes parents, so if dropping off or collecting your son/daughter then please do so outside of the house unless you have an interview scheduled with the housemaster when the boarders return.

To reduce the risks inherent in travel we are suspending exeats, so the exeat planned for Friday the 25th of September has been cancelled. The following exeat on Friday the 20th of November is still under review and I will write again if we intend to cancel this as well.

Face masks and other PPE are not compulsory but boarders are welcome to wear them. The school will not be providing PPE so boarders should return with a suitable amount for their own use if desired.

It is more important than ever that boarders who are unwell do not return to school until they are better. Please ensure that your son/daughter does not attend LRGS until this is the case and rest assured that we have plans in place to keep them that way.

For the benefit of the boys/girls the houses will keep the structure and routine of boarding as close to 'normal' as possible but with carefully considered changes to increase safety. We aim to take a sensible but mindful approach whilst still providing an outstanding experience.

Yours sincerely,

David Rowe