

GAE/TB

Sent by Email

12 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Following the increasing challenges posed by the worldwide Coronavirus outbreak, the College's management team has been working on ways in which we can safeguard our pupils' health. We will do our utmost to ensure that the virus does not enter our community and ensure that pupils in examination year groups are not disadvantaged after the Easter break by travel restrictions, thereby potentially jeopardising examinations in the summer.

The College has taken the decision to keep a boarding house open over the Easter break. We will be using Weaponness House, and, as well as study time being included in the daily routine, there will be trips and activities arranged to ensure the pupils also enjoy this time. I have been most grateful to many local parents who have offered to support our boarding community. Whilst we will not be requesting any accommodation for the boarders, if you have contacts or run a business that might allow our boarders further recreational opportunities, please let me know, as we wish to make their stay as fulfilling as possible.

Currently, the Government, Public Health England and Ofqual (the Examination Regulation Body & International Baccalaureate) have no plans to delay or change the timetable for external examinations. We have, therefore, encouraged all boarders in the two examination year groups to consider the potential impact of returning abroad when the picture in the UK or in their home country at the start of the summer term may preclude their prompt return. I am very grateful to the parents of boarders who have shown great support and consideration in their decision making in regard to their child's travel plans.

The College remains open for business as normal but you will understand that we must take our responsibility to avoid the virus entering our community very seriously. With that in mind, I would ask that should you or your family travel outside the country during school time or during the school holidays (for example on a ski trip) that you inform us so that we can support your child's safe reintegration into school. We have also made the decision to postpone Saturday's Open Day to 16 May.

Should the College be required to close or restrict teaching to particular year groups, perhaps due to staff absence, all reasonable measures will be taken to maintain your child's academic progress. We are currently developing our capacity to use online platforms that would see lessons being uploaded and we will continue to use Google Classroom to set and mark work online. Being a Google school certainly has many advantages.



Our pupils are reminded daily and the College site has plenty of visual reminders about how we can maintain high personal levels of hygiene and we are grateful that our pupils respect and appreciate the risks associated with the Coronavirus outbreak. The College are reviewing decisions on a daily basis regarding fixtures, trips, boarders' town leave and, as per Public Health England's advice, that our pupils during the nationwide containment phase avoid higher risk events including: large gatherings, external sports events, concerts, although this list is clearly not exhaustive and we encourage parents to closely monitor the up-to-date Government advice, as the College will be.

Our priority is to protect the College Community and minimise the risk of any contamination within the College. We very much appreciate your support in this matter. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Emmett', with a horizontal line extending to the right across the end of the signature.

Guy Emmett
Headmaster