



The recently announced government lockdown means that rather than looking for opportunities to put up more sail, we must instead reduce sail, batten down the hatches and do all that we can to ride out the lockdown storm safely.

In addition to the restrictions announced in the previous Parent Update, and in particular on account of the prohibition on non-essential travel, the following restrictions will be in place from Thursday.

### **The Extra-Curricular Programme**

- As far as possible, all extra-curricular activity will cease at the end of the school day (ie 16:30). This includes the Sports Academies, additional sport training, drama, music and the after-school clubs at the Prep.
- Training for the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race and for Ten Tors is suspended until further notice.
- Visiting music and LAMDA teachers may continue to teach live in school, though provision will be made for pupils to receive tuition via Teams, using their laptops, should any individual staff choose not to come into school, or be unable to do so.
- All sports fixtures are suspended.
- Apart from very limited activities in the immediate local area for the boarders at weekends, there will be no school trips of any sort.
- The gym will continue to be opened for boarders in the evenings, but on a year-group basis.
- Swim training will be delivered in year-groups, rather than squads.

### **Town**

- Pupils are not allowed into town from Monday to Friday, except by special arrangement with their Hm.
- Pupils may go into town at the weekend, but under strict management controls, details of which will be published to the pupils in due course.

## **After-Hours Provision**

- Parents are encouraged to take their children home at 16:30, to reduce the number of pupils in school.
- Pupils who are unable to go home at this time may remain at school, under the following arrangements:
  - At the Prep. Day pupils who wish to remain in school after 16:30 are to report to the Library, though they may also meet any of their teachers for additional support, if offered.
  - At the College. Day pupils who wish to remain in school after 16:30 are to remain within their Houses, though they may also meet any of their teachers for additional support, if offered.
- All day pupils must be off-site by 17:30

## **Flexi- and Weekly Boarding**

Weekly boarding will continue as normal, and flexi-boarding will continue, but with the following precautions:

- There is to be no *ad hoc* drop-in boarding.
- Parents must sign up for all the nights for which they wish their children to board, through to the end of term, and the nights should be regular.

## **Boarding Life**

We are very conscious of the challenges facing our boarders in the coming weeks, and particularly at weekends, and a programme of activities and entertainment is being constructed, including film nights, take-aways and streamed events. The catering staff will also provide enhanced support to the Houses, including theme nights and the delivery of a steady stream of cookies and donuts in the evenings and at weekends.

The suspension of the commercial swim programme has freed up pool time for the boarders to enjoy some recreational swimming, and a programme for this will be published shortly.

## **Remembrance**

Remembrance will be a much scaled-down affair this year, and will consist just of two short Acts of Remembrance, one on Sun 8 Nov at the College, for all Prep and College boarders, and one on Wed 11 Nov at the Prep for all Prep pupils.

Attendance at Sunday's Act of Remembrance at the College is compulsory for all full boarders who are in school over the weekend, but day pupils may not attend.

Attendance at Wednesday's Act of Remembrance at the Prep is compulsory for all Prep pupils.

Unfortunately, parents are not to attend either event.

## **Christmas Festivities**

In common with much of the world, our celebration of Christmas is going to be rather muted this year, but we are preparing two pre-recorded festivals of lessons, carols, readings and music, one at the Prep and one at the College. These will be streamed to the pupils in House and year-group locations at some point during the final week of term, and these recordings will also be accessible for parents to watch from their homes.

There will also, of course, be the traditional Christmas lunch!

## **Christmas Camp**

The Half Term Camp, which was run at the Prep, was a great success, and we have now committed to running a Christmas Camp. Details of this will be confirmed shortly and parents of overseas boarders written to separately.

## **Term Dates**

Further to the letter from the Head Master, term dates for 2021 are as set out below. **Please note that the dates for the Michaelmas Term 2021 are still provisional.**

- **Lent Term**                      6 weeks, 1 week, 5 weeks
  - Tue 5 Jan                      Term Starts
  - Fri 12 Feb                      Half Term starts
  - Fri 26 Mar                      Term Ends
  
  - Sun 4 Apr                      Easter Sunday

- **Summer Term**                    5 weeks, 1 week, 5 weeks
  - Tue 20 Apr            Term Starts
  - Sat 22 May            College Founder's Day
  - Half term starts
  - Whole-school Summer Ball
  - Fri 2 Jul              Prep Speech Day
  - Term ends
  
- **Michaelmas Term**            7 weeks, 2 weeks, 6 weeks
  - Thu 2 Sep            Term Starts
  - Sat 25 Sep            Exeat at the Prep
  - Fri 15 Oct            Half Term starts
  - Sun 31 Oct            Term resumes
  - Sat 20 Nov            Exeat at the Prep
  - Fri 10 Dec            Term Ends