



Introduction

As you will be aware, the government has announced a further national lockdown for England, with the reversion to online teaching for all primary and secondary schools, at least for the next six weeks.

This raises a number of questions, not all of which we are in a position at this stage to answer. The purpose of this Update, however, is to set out our immediate position, with further clarification to follow.

Academic Provision

For the rest of this week, the academic programme for the different year groups will be as follows:

- For pupils in Year 7 and upwards the academic timetable – as set out in yesterday’s Parent Update – will remain unchanged.
- Provision for pupils from Reception to Year 6 requires greater consideration and preparation, and though it will look very similar to the programme followed during the Summer Term, the staff will need tomorrow (Tuesday) to put things in place. Online provision for these year groups will commence on Wednesday morning, following a programme which will be published tomorrow, though this may itself be subject to change as the lockdown period progresses.
- Pupils in Nursery should report to the Pre-Prep as normal from 8:15.

The programme from Mon 11 Jan is likely to look similar to the programme followed during the Summer Term, but further details of this will follow in due course.

Public & mock examinations

Clearly, this is a time of great uncertainty and some anxiety for those pupils facing public examinations. The Prime Minister made clear that consultation with OfQual was ongoing, but for now our plan is that both Year 11 and the Upper Sixth will sit mock examinations after half term. Clearly, there will be speculation as to whether centre-assessed grading will be adopted, and how such grades will be determined, but it is unlikely at this stage that we will be in a position to give meaningful answers to questions from pupils in Year 11 and the Upper Sixth or their parents.

Provision for the children of key workers [KWC] and vulnerable children

The Prime Minister made clear that, as was the case during the Summer Term, KWC and vulnerable children may attend in person, and engage with online learning from school. This provision will be in place from Wednesday.

Should you require key worker support, or require support on account of your son or daughter's vulnerability, please contact Mr Bott (College) or Mr Thavenot (Prep), ideally by 14:00 tomorrow (Tuesday).

KWC and vulnerable children from Year 7 upwards will be based in the Library at the College and so should bring their devices and headphones to school. KWC and vulnerable children below Year 6 will be based in the Library at the Prep, and similarly should bring their devices and headphones, though the ICT Room will also be available.

All such pupils will be supervised, and will receive lunch.

Boarders

Over the course of the next twenty-four hours Mr Floyd will be in touch with the parents of the boarders currently in residence at the Prep.

Those boarders already in residence at the College are more than welcome to remain with us. They will be supported in their learning, fully catered for, and encouraged to take regular fresh air and exercise. It may be, once we have a clear sense of the numbers and distribution across the year groups, that we make some adjustments to the configuration of our boarding.

Should you wish to collect your son or daughter, however, you may, of course, do so, and should contact your child's Housemaster/Housemistress to make the necessary arrangements.

Conversely, if your son or daughter is a boarder and they are still at home, you should keep them with you. Should you feel, however, that your child's emotional and educational needs would be best served by returning to boarding, or if both parents are key workers or your child might be considered vulnerable, you should discuss this with Mr Bott at the College and Mr Thavenot at the Prep.

Pastoral care

The wellbeing of all our pupils is paramount, of course, and please be assured that your child's Tutor/Housemaster/Housemistress/Form Teacher will be in contact, and all the usual sources of pastoral support remain available, including the School Nurse.

Swimming

Swimming pools are now closed, and all swim training has been suspended until we are able to gain greater clarification.

Conclusion

These are clearly febrile times, and as made clear above, this Update only sets out our initial position; further Updates will follow in due course.

In common with all schools, and probably in common with most of our parents, there is more thought to be given to how we will navigate our way forwards, and further detail will follow. In the meantime, we are awaiting further guidance from the DfE, BSA, HMC and other advisory bodies.

Thank you, as always, for your support as we ride out the storm.