



Introduction

Each month seems to bring another set of questions and challenges. The purpose of this Update is to set out the School's position with regards to the following:

- This summer's public examinations
- Remote teaching provision during the Summer Term
- The Summer half-term break
- The summer holiday
- Pre-Summer Term Quarantine Camp

This summer's public examinations

You will know that the UK government made the decision to cancel the formal examinations scheduled for June 2021 and to ask schools to decide the grades for GCSE and A level. Subsequently, the government and Ofqual, the organisation in charge of exams, gave schools some general guidance, but for the most part schools have been asked to use their own judgment in collecting evidence on which to base a decision about a pupil's grade.

At Mount Kelly each subject has set out a plan for the evidence that it will use in June when it decides a pupil's final grade. In most subjects it is possible for work completed over the last few months to be included as part of the package of evidence, along with any formal coursework or equivalent. However, in every subject (except for Art), we believe it is important for the teachers to see how a pupil has performed in an examination in order to be able to award a grade fairly. Some subjects have already cut the number of papers that a pupil will sit, or have reduced the number of topics that will be included in the examination, in line with what has actually been taught this year.

We understand how difficult it will be for our **Hong Kong pupils** to return to school next term, and in particular, we know that pupils travelling from Hong Kong would then be unable to return home for the summer. We have been in discussion with our sister school in Hong Kong and they have generously agreed to administer our examinations for us in May. This will require us to draw up a new examination schedule and make some other alterations to our assessment plans. It will also mean that pupils in Hong Kong will need to ensure that they can attend Mount Kelly Hong Kong over several days in order to sit their examinations. Pupils should therefore continue to revise and prepare for their examinations just as they would if they were here in Tavistock. However, it seems to us to be the fairest way to give pupils an opportunity to prove themselves and to allow teachers to present evidence in support of the grade they award.

Clearly, the opportunity to sit this summer's examinations at Mount Kelly Hong Kong is available only to pupils resident in Hong Kong, so it is important that **overseas pupils resident in other parts of the world** do not feel disadvantaged in any way, should they also be unable to return to Mount Kelly in Tavistock.

It will be possible for us to make individualised provision for pupils who are unable to return, and these should contact Mr Dixon at their earliest convenience, as well as their Housemaster or Housemistress. It is very likely that these pupils will still be required to sit some examinations, invigilated via Teams, but these will be timetabled for the second exam session in May and a new schedule will be created for each pupil. It is therefore important that every pupil in Year 11 and the Upper Sixth should continue to study and revise, on the assumption that they will still be sitting examinations in May.

Remote teaching provision during the Summer Term

As noted above, we fully appreciate the extraordinary challenges facing our overseas pupils, and for those who are unable to return to School next term this must be a particularly difficult time. As the overwhelming majority of our pupils will be back at school next term, the timetable will be broadly similar to that followed in the final fortnight of this term, and conventional, face-to-face classroom teaching will be the principal teaching medium.

This will, of course, present significant challenges for our overseas pupils, not least on account of the time difference; period 5, for example, will start at 10:00 in the evening. In order to enable our overseas pupils to continue to engage with their learning, however, all lessons will be recorded, our teachers will – as far as possible – make use of the cameras in their classrooms to enable pupils to see what is going on, and further use will be made of Teams and OneNote. We have also re-structured the day to create a 40-minute slot in the middle of the day when overseas pupils may book additional time with their teachers to go over work they might have missed. Details of how this will be managed will be published to pupils as term starts.

The Pre-Summer Term Quarantine Camp

Arrangements are well-advanced for the Pre-Summer Term Quarantine Camp, which will take place at Moorland Hall, the outdoor pursuits centre at Mary Tavy, just to the north of the School.

We would take this opportunity to remind the parents of pupils attending the Quarantine Camp that pupils will be grouped and accommodated in three very strictly segregated households – two boys' households and one girls' household – but within their households they will be in shared rooms, with shared facilities. Not only would it be logistically impossible for us to provide single-room, en-suite accommodation for each pupil, it would be prohibitively expensive for parents. It would also be significantly more challenging for the pupils.

As it is, we believe we have balanced practicality with safety and well-being. As previously, the pupils will have the run of Moorland Hall's extensive grounds and gardens, there will be protected study time for those who need to prepare for examinations, and they will be properly supported throughout by experienced Mount Kelly staff.

Should any parent feel strongly, however, that their son or daughter should be in a single-occupancy room, with their own en-suite facilities, they may opt out of the Quarantine Camp and should book their child into a government-sanctioned quarantine facility.

Mr Reid is the SLT oversight for the Quarantine Camp and is your point of contact for all matters relating to the camp.

The Summer Term half-term break

We can confirm that we will be running a further camp, based either at the Prep or at the College, for the Summer Term half-term break.

In order to help us with our planning, it would be useful if you could indicate your interest by completing a brief online proforma, using this [link](#). This does not constitute a commitment on your part, and further details will be published in due course, together with an online form for you to formally sign up your son or daughter.

The summer holiday

We should be clear now that we will not be in a position to run a camp or offer accommodation for any pupils over the summer holiday. Should quarantine restrictions still be in place by the time pupils need to return for the Michaelmas Term, however, we will be running a further Quarantine Camp from the weekend of Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 August. Again, further details of this will be published nearer the time.

Conclusion

Further details of the summer examination programme, and of how it will be adapted for overseas pupils who are unable to return to Mount Kelly next term, will be published in due course.

In the meantime, should any of our overseas parents have any questions or concerns, they should address them to Mr Reid, the Principal Deputy Head (ReidA@mountkelly.com) or Mr James Dixon, the Deputy Head Academic (DixonJ@mountkelly.com).