



## Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools

From the Principal **Mr James Murphy-O'Connor** MA Oxon

17th March 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Agents,

I would like to provide you with the following update post the Cobra press briefing this afternoon:

- Firstly, could I please urge all parents not to send their children into school if they have a new, persistent cough and/or a high temperature.
- If any family member has these symptoms, the entire household must now self-isolate for 14 days. We have had a couple of cases of pupils faking a cough to be sent home, please stress to your child the impact this could have on the whole family needing to self-isolate for a fortnight.
- Could all international boarding parents please make the necessary arrangements for their children to return home as soon as possible. Travel arrangements should be discussed with your child's boarding house parents or housemaster in the first instance.
- We are still awaiting confirmation on arrangements for this summer's public exams, which are likely to be disrupted. On this basis, we are now suggesting all Year 11 and 13 international boarders return home and the schools will update families as soon as we are briefed by the exam boards.
- All pupils and staff with underlying health issues, as outlined by the government, have been advised to stay at home to minimise their risk.
- We have contingency plans to email work to all pupils who are already absent. We will provide greater detail on our plans to deliver remote learning in the next couple of days as we audit the numbers of staff and pupils currently away from school.
- All school trips and fixtures will be cancelled from Friday.
- Additional practical measures have been put in place including staggering meals, staff serving all pupils where possible, staff ensuring hand sanitisers are used before and after every meal.

We understand these are very worrying times for our entire school community. We also recognise the important role schools play in enabling our healthcare workers, emergency services and supply network to function as normally as possible for as long as possible.

With my very best wishes,