



Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools

From the Head of Boarding **Mr Alex Peace BSc (Hons)**

12th June 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Agents,

Many of you have contacted the schools with questions about opening next term. We remain confident that we will be reopening in September and wanted to offer you some reassurance by outlining our intentions regarding a few key issues for next term.

1. The #safeschools initiative

On 10th May, the UK Government announced the roadmap to ending lockdown. On Tuesday 26th May, the BSA formally announced the BSA Covid-Safe charter. I am pleased to inform you that we have subscribed to the charter and committed to the #safeschools initiative. Full details of our commitment are available at www.safeschoolsuk.org. This means that we will:

- ✓ Allow students to wear face masks in school
- ✓ Undertake temperature checks or thermal scanning regularly for all non-resident individuals
- ✓ Put in place and ensure appropriate social distancing measures
- ✓ Ensure appropriate PPE for staff who require it
- ✓ Provide a suitable isolation area to care for pupils who show symptoms

2. UK Quarantine

The requirement for quarantining travellers arriving in the UK began on June 8th. The policy will be reviewed again in three weeks, and there is no indication as yet whether the policy will still be in force at the beginning of the Michaelmas term. The UK Department of Education has confirmed that schools will be deemed as suitable accommodation for any quarantine requirement.

- ✓ We will open a boarding facility to accommodate boarders during the quarantine period.
- ✓ Should the requirement no longer exist, we will honour the boarding booking and allow boarders to stay in the house under less stringent conditions.
- ✓ This will be available from the 24th of August but please let us know if this causes difficulties with flights.
- ✓ There will be no charge for this facility.
- ✓ We hope that if you are able to make suitable private arrangements you will pursue this avenue before booking into School
- ✓ The current guidance indicates that there will be no opportunity for those being quarantined to mix in any normal way even with members of their own "household".

3. Half term

We are aware that it may be unviable to book a return flight for half term under the current circumstances. We will, therefore, be arranging a residential facility for half term for those

who struggle to make suitable guardian arrangements. Further details to follow on likely costs involved.

4. **Exeat**

We understand that in the current unprecedented situation, making exeat arrangements may make cause additional pressure on some families or may be impractical. We will be offering a 'stay-in' option for the September and November exeats. The format has yet to be decided upon and may involve staying in a different location for the weekend, under the overall direction of Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools staff.

5. **Travel**

We will provide a letter that international pupils can use as a way of demonstrating that they are travelling back to a BSA member school. Translations into Chinese and Russian have already been commissioned and will be available imminently. Our dedicated travel office will continue to offer our usual service of coordinated airport collections to oversee the safe return of your child to school. We will monitor government advice and work tirelessly with our transport partners to ensure that this is done safely and in accordance with any social distancing requirements. Please liaise in the normal way regarding flight details: boarderstransport@habsmonmouth.org

6. **Contact us**

Many of you have already spoken with our boarding staff directly. Please continue to contact your son's/daughter's houseparent/housemaster with any further queries, or indeed contact the boarding secretary on willis.melina@habsmonmouth.org and she will answer your enquiry or direct it accordingly.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alex Peace', written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Mr Alex Peace