



Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools

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

Dear Parents and Guardians (Boarders residing in Hong Kong and China),

I wanted to provide you with some reassurance in response to the unpredictable travel and quarantine advice making the headlines at the moment.

We are all really looking forward to welcoming your children back safely in September and being able to offer all our boarders a return to our full educational programme back in Monmouth. As you can imagine, there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes over this summer period. In July, I wrote confirming we would open a quarantine facility, fully anticipating that we would need to be flexible and able to accommodate changes where necessary to support families facing such uncertainty. To avoid the need to self-isolate for 14 days, we strongly advise coordinating travel plans wherever possible to create bubbles which will enable your children to spend the 14-day quarantine in small groups.

Two options in response to possible quarantine changes and news items causing uncertainty in Hong Kong and Mainland China:

- A. Book into our quarantine facility (see below for details)
 - Opens on 24th August for 14 days
 - Dedicated quarantine boarding team
 - Groups of pupils travelling together will be able to share aspects of quarantine together, for example mealtimes, exercise and watching films etc
 - Augusta House on the girls' school site – Single en-suite bathrooms
 - No additional charge for this facility
 - Pupils move into their normal boarding houses on Monday 7th September
 - To book a place and discuss flight details to coordinate travel arrangements, please email boarderstransport@habsmonmouth.org

- B. Book your normal return, confident that we will provide for any quarantine requirements at that time
 - Gives you a further month for advice to change again e.g. no quarantine in place and pupils could then return as usual
 - Should a spike cause advice to change, parents won't risk losing flights and can book with more confidence
 - If pupils are required to quarantine at short notice, they will stay in an individual room with private WC and shower (this is likely be in spare en-suite rooms in Buchanan House for boys or Augusta House for girls)
 - Again, pupils travelling back from airports in a group, will be able to mix together.
 - As normal lessons will have begun, boarders quarantining will be able to follow lessons remotely via Teams in the boarding houses.

Further advice based on Frequently Asked Questions:

When will students be expected to arrive?



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- 24th August if booking into quarantine
- Normal start dates as follows: <https://www.habsmonmouth.org/information/term-dates/>
 - **Monday 7th Sept** boarders in Years 7-9, 12 and all new boarders
 - **Tuesday 8th Sept** – all remaining boarders

Travel:

- If you would like us to assist with your child's transfer from the airport to Monmouth, please provide us with their flight reservation: boardertransport@habsmonmouth.org
- We will arrange scheduled transfers from Heathrow Airport on Monday 24th August, Monday 7th September and Tuesday 8th September. The cost of these airport transfers is £45.
- If your child is due to arrive in the UK outside these scheduled transfer times then we can arrange a taxi transfer but please be aware this is expensive, the cost of an individual taxi transfer to Monmouth is approx. £240 plus the driver's waiting time.

Timing/last chance to book and confirm plans:

- We will do our utmost to remain flexible but it would be helpful to confirm your plans as soon as possible
- The more time we have, the more chance we have to arrange transport and transfers
- For option A (24th August) – please let us know by 10th August

Safety:

- We are completing a full assessment of risks and measures required specifically for the airport transfers. This will be available to you prior to departure.
- Local infection risk is currently very low, we have been advised by our school doctor that there has been no confirmed case for over 7 weeks in Monmouth.

Further questions:

In addition to the above contacts and the admissions teams, please don't hesitate to contact the boarding secretary, Melina Willis, who will forward your enquiry accordingly.

willis.melina@habsmonmouth.org

Very best wishes for the next few weeks and please pass on my regards to your son or daughter and reassure them that we can't wait to see them.

Kind regards