

Brexit as we know it so far.

ADVICE FOR OVERSEAS PUPILS CURRENTLY STUDYING AT MILLFIELD

Millfield has been closely monitoring information released from the UK Government to establish how Brexit might affect current pupils who live overseas. This information provides a practical interpretation of the UK Government's current immigration proposals (Gov.UK) and is based upon the Boarding Schools' Association Autumn Briefing (September 2019).

The information is accurate at time of writing (2 January 2020) and will be updated should there be a change in political circumstances or UK Government policy.

A Brexit deal has been agreed in principle with the EU. Both the UK and the EU need to approve and sign the withdrawal agreement. They will then start to negotiate new arrangements. There would be a transition period to prepare for the new rules. The UK could still leave with no deal if the withdrawal agreement is not approved by 31 January 2020, or at the end of the transition period.

1. Scenario One - If the UK leaves the EU with a deal on 31 January 2020.

31 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

The UK Government intends to introduce a new immigration system that will fully be in place by January 2021. This means that free movement into the UK by European residents will end. There will be an implementation (or transition) period from 31 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 during which the pre-exit rules will continue to apply:

- Until 31 December 2020 current rules that oversee pupils from the EU studying at Millfield will continue to apply. There will be no change during this period. EU citizens will be able to enter the UK, reside and study at Millfield
- From 1 January 2021 a single immigration system will be introduced by the UK Government. EU pupils will be subject to the same arrangements as pupils from the rest of the world
- Pupils who are international, non-EEA citizens will be able to continue to study at Millfield on their Tier 4 visa

From 1 January 2021

In order to remain in the UK beyond the above implementation period, EU citizens must have obtained specific, individual permission to remain in the UK. Those EU citizens resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 will have until 30 June 2021 to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme for Settled Status or Pre-settled Status.

If there is a Brexit deal, the new immigration rules are planned to take effect from January 2021.

2. Scenario Two - If the UK leaves the EU without a deal on 31 January 2020.

In the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, the UK Government has said they will seek to legislate to end freedom of movement from 31 January 2020 (or as soon as possible thereafter).

However, for those EU pupils at Millfield by 31 January, pre-exit immigration rules will continue to apply until 31 December 2020:

- EU pupils studying at Millfield before 31 January 2020 will be able to enter and reside in the UK as they do now
- The new immigration system would take effect from January 2021
- Until 31 December 2020 those EU citizens resident in the UK before 31 January 2020 will continue to be able to rely on their passport, or national identity card if they are asked to evidence their right to reside in the UK, as they do currently

Whichever scenario occurs on 31 January 2020, we will issue all EU pupils travelling internationally with a Millfield document detailing that they are enrolled at the school, when their course ends and who to contact at the school with any questions.

As we receive further advice from the UK Government, we will continue to update current and prospective parents on how to proceed ready for the implementation of the single immigration system from 1 January 2021.

In the meantime, if you have any further questions, please contact your Housemaster or Housemistress.