

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The situation with regards to the ongoing worldwide Coronavirus outbreak remains fluid and complex. Canford is working extremely hard to ensure the safety of all members of its community whilst continuing to deliver the highest quality education possible under these very difficult circumstances. For context we feel that it is important to emphasise that, thus far, we are not aware of any confirmed cases of CoVid-19 amongst Canford's community.

However, following the Prime Minister's announcement on the evening of 16th March 2020 of significantly increased measures to mitigate the spread of the virus, we have sought further clarification from the Boarding Schools' Association this morning. BSA have advised that schools should assume that each house is a 'household' and that 'where it is currently possible for boarders to return home this should be expedited'. Therefore, whilst it was our strong desire to continue until the end of term, we have decided that onsite education activity for all pupils at Canford will be concluded at 16:30hrs on Wednesday 18th March 2020, which, unlike most other schools, is only a day and half earlier than the originally scheduled end of term. We will move to remote delivery of academic education for Thursday 19th March and Friday 20th March. This will give pupils time to pack and prepare for the Easter break, allow our remote education technologies and processes to be further tested and developed for the future, and, importantly, where possible, enable those public examinations scheduled before the end of term (such as music, language orals and PE assessments) to be completed. All pupils will be given information regarding how and when to access the remote learning facilities that we have put in place.

We would be grateful if you would arrange for your sons and daughters to be collected from School on or before the evening of Wednesday 18th March. For boarders, please advise your HsM of the collection arrangements you put in place. In view of the revised Government guidelines we would ask that you please try to remain in, or close to, your cars and do not enter the houses or other school buildings when collecting your children. Where it is impossible for pupils to return home by Wednesday evening, we would ask you to contact the relevant HsM as soon as possible and we will, of course, ensure that those pupils are looked after and kept safe until arrangements can be made for them to go home or to guardians.

We are extremely sorry to have been forced into this particular course of action which we recognise will cause significant inconvenience to many of you, but we feel that this plan provides the most appropriate balance of keeping your children safe and continuing their education as far as possible.

Finally, we have set up a dedicated webpage <https://www.canford.com/coronavirus-covid-19> on which we will post relevant information as and when it becomes available. We will inform you, by e-mail, of arrangements for the start of the Summer Term as the picture unfolds over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

Ben Vessey