



From the Headmaster  
B.A.M. Vessey, MA MBA  
email: [headmaster@canford.com](mailto:headmaster@canford.com)

8<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents,

Our planning for the remote educational programme we are seeking to offer is now gathering pace and, whilst there is still much to do before term commences on 20<sup>th</sup> April, I am in a position to give you fuller details. My apologies for the length of this letter but it is important so please do read it carefully.

The revised term dates for the Summer term 2020 are

Start of Term: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April (remote education programme commences with Period 1 at 8.45am  
(Nb for technical and internal planning reasons this will be **Week 2** of the Timetable))

Exeat: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May (commences 2.30pm after P6) to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Half Term: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May (commences 2.30pm after P6) to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

**Exeat (new):** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June (commences 2.30pm after P6) to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June

End of Term: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July (arrangements to be advised)

In our planning of this remote education programme we have been very mindful of the need to build in suitable breaks from screen time in both the academic and co-curricular schedule. This is one reason why we have chosen to follow the shape of the Canford school week from Monday to Saturday which allows flexibility to space lessons, activities and breaks appropriately.

A simple Canford remote education programme guide will be sent to the pupils at the end of next week and this will be copied to parents also.

We have been seeking appropriate advice and guidance in relation to safeguarding and other issues linked to remote delivery of education and suitable risk assessments, protocols, guidance and amendments to relevant policies will be in place.

## The Academic & Enrichment Programme

The majority of academic lessons will take place between 8.45am-2.25pm with suitable breaks in the morning and at lunch time. The exceptions will be Wednesday and Friday where some lessons will occur later in the afternoon, and also Tuesday afternoon for the 4<sup>th</sup> Form. There will also be academic lessons on Saturday morning between 8.45am-1.05pm. I have attached a draft schedule for information (this is unlikely to change before the start of term but any revisions to it will be in the Pupil guide).

Pupils will be registered at the start of each lesson by the teacher and there will be some clear rules and expectations set out so pupils are clear about behaviour and engagement. The daily programme will include assemblies and chapel. Prep will run from 5.00-6.00pm on certain afternoons.

Whilst not ideal for international pupils these timings will enable most international pupils in the Far East to engage actively with most lessons in the afternoons and evenings. For those in other parts of the world to the west of the UK, direct 'live' access to some morning lessons will be more difficult and may require a somewhat earlier start to the day. Lessons and activities will be available via a recorded lesson function on Teams and through online access to resources and tasks. Pastoral and Tutorial support will be run at pre-arranged times when these pupils and Tutors can connect directly.

Academic lessons will be delivered via Teams as at the end of last term, and will be a daily blend of "live" video sessions, pre-set independent study exercises, or tasks and preparing assignments with the teacher available via the Teams message function to assist and clarify during lesson times. This will mirror the patterns of teaching and learning your children will be used to in the normal onsite teaching programme.

Mrs Ryan will be ensuring there is continuity of support for those working with the Support for Learning department.

In terms of academic programmes for specific year groups it is planned as follows:

**Current Shells:** current Shell courses will be shortened and from mid May (likely to be w/c 11<sup>th</sup> May tba) the timetable will change and Shells will effectively become 4<sup>th</sup> Form and will start their chosen GCSE courses.

**Current Fourth Form:** will continue with GCSE courses in preparation for GCSE exams in Summer 2021, although they will become 5<sup>th</sup> Formers in name when the timetable changes from mid May (likely to be w/c 11<sup>th</sup> May tba).

**Current Fifth Form:** after an initial phase to complete and consolidate GCSE courses, which is required prior to Sixth Form study, the timetable will change and from mid May (likely to be w/c 11<sup>th</sup> May tba) the Fifth Form will start their chosen A Level and Pre U courses. Support will also be offered in due course for potential GCSE exams in Autumn 2020 if these are required.

**Current Lower Sixth:** will continue with ongoing A level and Pre U courses for exams in Summer 2021, although they will become Upper Sixth Formers in name when the timetable changes from mid May (likely to be Week 4 tba).

**Current Upper Sixth:** after an initial period to complete and consolidate A Level/ Pre U courses the Upper Sixth will begin a specially designed 'College' programme, which will offer a wide range of educational enrichment, pre university/future life preparation, as well as professional and personal development opportunities. The start of the College programme is currently planned for w/c 4<sup>th</sup> May of the term. Support will also be offered in due course for potential A Level/Pre U exams in Autumn 2020 if these are required.

The emerging concepts of this 'College' programme were outlined in my letter of 26<sup>th</sup> March but I am now in a position to give you more details regarding the blend of independent and collaborative activities it will entail. Whilst ideas are continuing to develop the Canford College programme will include:

- A core academic extension programme guided by departments on a subject by subject basis to prepare pupils for university style study and continued professional learning in the workplace: this will include predominantly independent learning with weekly seminar style departmental contact time.

- Flexible and varied opt-in elective modules on a wide range of topics from intellectual challenges to global connections, to key life skills – some will be one off classes or lectures, others a series of classes that may bridge a few weeks or the whole term delivered by internal and external providers.
- Dedicated Careers and UCAS clinics.
- A matched mentoring system with recent OCs.
- Flexible but regular tutor slots.
- Daily slots for sport, activities and wellbeing (including flexibility to participate in whole school enterprises, music and drama activities where relevant).
- A specially tailored programme focused on developing crucial self leadership and life skills.

Access to pastoral and well being support provision will also be a key part of the ‘College’ programme. We have been collaborating with a working group of Upper Sixth pupils as part of the planning process, and they are actively helping to shape what is being developed.

The Upper Sixth programme will run on a different rhythm to the standard timetable but will be clearly scheduled in advance to give this group a crucial sense of structure, focus, motivation and meaningful social engagement across the Canford community over the long ‘isolated’ weeks ahead. Given the dramatic change in circumstances in this final stage of their Sixth Form journey, such a programme is even more important for their educational and personal development and well being.

Further to the letter from me and Mr Weir earlier this week, staff will also be working hard to support Upper Sixth pupils and Fifth Form to respond to and fulfil the Ofqual and exam board grade assessment process. Support with preparation for exams will also be put in place in Autumn 2020 should this be needed.

### **The Co-curricular Programme**

On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons there will be an enrichment and co-curricular programme of activities. As in ‘normal times’ these will not run continually for everybody throughout the afternoon but everyone will have access to designated activities which will be a blend of bespoke ‘live’ interactive sessions or directed ‘off the shelf’ activities feeding into a Canford Record of Personal Development which pupils will record and share with their tutors. This programme will set expected weekly outcomes for pupils across a range of activities including physical, creative and performance opportunities.

The Canford Music programme will continue with live remotely delivered individual music lessons and ensembles will continue to function. Mr Sparkhall has some interesting ideas on this front. The Drama department will offer a range of experiences including script writing, radio broadcasting and film-making. Clearly we cannot deliver the same sporting programme but the Sports team will provide access to and support for a varied menu of physical well being and training activities to keep pupils healthy in body as well as mind. Community Partnership/Service will seek to remotely engage Canfordians with a range of opportunities to support children and those in need.

## The Pastoral Programme

We will provide significant pastoral and well being support to the pupils in all year groups in what is clearly a difficult time. This will consist of Tutoring across all year groups in both small groups and, especially for Sixth Form, on a 1-1 basis. Regular House meetings will take place for groups within each House. Creative and positive use of House and School social media platforms will also be put in place to share and celebrate progress being made and achievements. We will be offering a number of mental health and well being opportunities including remote access to the Health Centre and our counsellors. A revised and refreshed PSME programme will also form part of the weekly timetable.

This is a new phase of the Canford educational journey which we have all shared in partnership to date and will continue to do so in the weeks and months ahead. Clearly it will take time to perfect and that will require positive engagement and a 'Growth Mindset' from all, alongside patience and practice in terms of how it all functions and fits together. We will be seeking regular feedback via surveys to help us assess, adjust and improve as we travel this road together.

I hope this provides some helpful ongoing insight and please do share these details with your sons and daughters.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Vessey".

Ben Vessey