

CANFORD

Canford School

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From the Headmaster
B.A.M. Vessey, MA MBA
email: headmaster@canford.com

26th June 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been an extraordinary term in so many ways. We have all worked incredibly hard together to ensure that the mutual support and respect which makes the Canford Community so strong has remained at the heart of all we have done. That so much has been achieved in such a positive manner is a testament to that shared sense of purpose and commitment.

Our planning for reopening in September is gathering pace and we will provide more insight and detail as this takes shape in the weeks ahead. Your feedback to the initial survey was greatly appreciated and has been very helpful in giving us greater understanding of your priorities and your concerns for September. The guidelines we receive from Government continue to evolve, as does the impact these changes have on what we think we can do when September comes. It does look increasingly likely that there will be Government support for a full return to school for all our pupils, day and boarding, and that continues to be the central aim of our planning exercise.

We will continue to communicate with you as details crystallise but, given the imminent end to term and the onset of the summer holiday period, we felt it was important to convey some thoughts in relation to summer holiday plans and timings, particularly as there is a clear move to opening up the possibility of some foreign travel in the weeks ahead.

Whilst we are still working on the exact details for the start of next term, and we may need to plan for a slightly staggered pupil return, we are due to see boarding pupils back in school on Tuesday 8th September, with day pupils joining on Wednesday 9th September. With this in mind, and having consulted with our medical advisors, we would urge all Canford families to look very carefully at what their holiday plans are from 25th August until the start of term, and to avoid where at all possible any situations which might increase the risk of Covid-19 infection in that final 14 days of the holiday. This would include very careful thought being given to

- dates of return flights (this includes any return flights from destinations where designated 'air bridges' may be in place)
- attendance at large social gatherings
- mixing of families/bubbles
- social distancing in general day to day life

In line with Government guidelines our international pupils have been instructed to quarantine either under school arrangements or with family/guardians from 25th August. This will remain the case even if the official quarantine is lifted. It is vital that, as a whole school community, we all consider the ongoing importance of that mutual support, respect and responsibility we have for each other at this difficult time, and that we do all we can to keep each other safe and well. Minimising the possibility of infection in the two weeks before term starts will be valuable to all in this regard and this action is recommended by our medical advisors.

We will be sending out requests for certain consents and disclosures in due course, which will include our thoughts on preventative measures at the start of term to assist a smooth return to school.

I know we all need some serious rest and recreation over the coming weeks and I hope your summer plans enable this to happen before the return to school. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support and for your consideration on the matter above.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Vessey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'V' at the end.

Ben Vessey