



From the Headmaster  
BAM Vessey MA MBA

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As promised in my letter to you on 26th June, I am now writing with more detail regarding the plans for reopening the School.

It is with deep excitement and real joy that we are planning to open for **all pupils** across **all year groups** **at the start of the new academic year**. The educational vision and values we hold dear at Canford were upheld incredibly strongly throughout the period of remote learning last term and this showed the real extent and power of the Canford community spirit. I am in no doubt that this attitude and approach will shine through even more brightly as we gather again on the School's campus. We are well aware that the past few months have been difficult and very unsettling and we will be taking steps to provide positive and active support for pupils and staff as they return and adjust to school and its routines after many months where life has been very different. We will do our utmost to ensure the warmth and strength of the Canford Community remains fundamental to life here and we will deliver as high quality and enriching an education as possible. We have created a document which gives a much fuller and clearer sense of what the landscape ahead looks like, and I hope it will reassure you that our planning and approach is both thorough and thoughtful. Please click on the link below to access it:

[Keeping Canford Safe – Reopening Document](#)

If you have any specific questions regarding our reopening plans, please address these through the dedicated email address [covidsafe@canford.com](mailto:covidsafe@canford.com)

As is the way of things in these challenging times, there will be changes to the guidelines and this will require ongoing monitoring and review to ensure we are covering all the bases as effectively as we can. At present the Government has stated that it will make a final decision on school reopening on 11th August and we expect there will be further changes to guidance thereafter. On that basis we will wait until after that date to publish our full and detailed risk assessment on the website and we will notify you when this is available to view should you wish to do so. We will also wait until after this point before finalising our draft protocols which will underpin the operation of the School when term begins in September. Where appropriate we will send further communications to update you on important changes.

On a practical note I do need to let you know at this stage that we will be staggering the start of next term to give time and opportunity to educate the pupils in manageable groups on the new procedures and expectations.

Our plan is that

- Shell and Upper Sixth boarding pupils will return on the afternoon of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September with Shell and Upper Sixth day pupils returning on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Both year groups will commence lessons on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September.
- Fifth Form and Lower Sixth Boarding pupils will return on the afternoon of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September with Fifth Form and Lower Sixth day pupils returning on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Both year groups will commence lessons on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September.
- Fourth Form boarding pupils will return on the afternoon of Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September with Fourth Form day pupils returning on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Lessons for all Fourth Form pupils will commence on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

For those boarding pupils with siblings in year groups who are due to return on different dates we will facilitate a single drop off to ease pressure on parents in this regard if that is preferred.

Looking ahead to next term the exeat system will operate as normal. All boarders will be required to stay in for A weekends which includes the first full weekend back. Thereafter the usual arrangement whereby boarding pupils are required to be in school for a minimum of half the weekends over the term will continue to operate. The two whole school full weekend exeats and half term will also operate as normal but there will be a staggered exeat/half term start time for different year groups to ensure the 'pick up' can be managed safely. We will be issuing guidelines for parents and guardians to ensure those exeats and half term are carefully considered in terms of travel, social distancing and management of infection risk when away from school. We will send further information nearer the start of term with more details including timings, arrangements for drop off and other aspects.

One further area to highlight is the possibility that term dates may have to be adjusted later in the year. At present there is much discussion about running GCSE and A Level exams later in June and into July which would require a rethink of our term date structure. We do not have any fixed information on this as yet but, when we do, we will seek to make a decision on how to respond as quickly as possible and will communicate with you to give clarity as soon as we can.

I cannot overstate how wonderful it will be to see Canford full of life, energy and comradeship once more. Being able to inspire and empower our young people so they can develop and grow is why we are here, and I cannot wait to be working alongside my fantastic colleagues to fulfil these aims for each and every Canfordian when we reopen.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Jessy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the name.