



5 January 2021

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Writing my third letter to you in seven days was not quite how I envisaged the start of the Lent term, but the constantly shifting sands of the pandemic has made such communication a vital necessity. I hope that you feel well informed despite all the changes. The content of my letter from the 31 December has now be subsumed by the announcement last night from the Prime Minister. Although the roll out of the Oxford vaccine gives plenty of positive hope and allows us to see the end of the pandemic, there are some significant hurdles to overcome first.

Therefore, the vehicle for delivering education over the coming weeks will be through online platforms. Although the government has not set an end date for the lockdown, we can say, with as much certainty as one can at this time, that remote learning will be until half term. Many of you will have received communication yesterday on how the remote learning will work; those who have not, will do so today, from the Pre-Prep and Prep staff. We are now exploring the viability of keeping Early Years open and there will be communication from Mrs Skipper as soon as possible.

With the remote provision, our expectations and aspirations remain the same, and the level of care and support from the staff will be undiminished. All pupils will have their full timetable from Wednesday morning; as well as academic lessons, the important elements of the Langley education will be present too: the assemblies, tutor time, chapels, activities/hobbies etc.

The boarding houses at the Senior School are very much open. With the testing programme, they provide a safe environment for the young people, and I hope that many of the boarders will want to reside with us in the coming weeks. As I write, we are waiting for updates from the Boarding Schools Association.

I am very aware, and sensitive to, the additional pressures that you are under at this time, both in the familial and work environments, and incredibly grateful for your continued support. The closure of primary, and other schools also means that staff will be juggling their teaching with their home settings, despite key worker provision being available in some settings, and I am appreciative of their diligence and adaptability. Having switched to remote learning in the past, I am confident that it will be both a smooth and thorough process. Please do get in touch with the relevant staff if there are any connectivity issues, so we can swiftly resolve them for you. Once more, our children are caught in the middle of this and it is their wellbeing and development that is our utmost priority.

There are issues of finance that we should address too. As the schedule is unfolding in front of us, it is difficult to make any solid judgements at this time. I am working with the COO and finance team to identify savings and furlough opportunities that will allow us to ameliorate fee

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pressures. I propose that any financial recompense will be retrospective, with credits applied to your Trinity term bill; to do anything now would be guesswork and not fair to you or the school.

There will be a myriad of questions that you will have from delivery to scholarships and exams. We will be running a series of Q&A sessions for our different age groups that I hope you will be involved in; details to follow. The testing programme will get up and running prior to when we return.

The children of key workers and/or are vulnerable are invited to come onto either of the sites from tomorrow. We will test, using the Lateral Flow Tests, those who are Year 7 and above, as well as the staff who are taking care of them. Please email

coronavirusupdate@langleschool.co.uk to inform us of your requirement to access this provision, stating your key worker status, and please continue to update us on any change to your health situation. Could you also please let us know if you have transport requirements as part of this email.

Once more the Langley community is put to the test and once more we will show our resolve and resilience in the face of challenge. We are in this together and I am thankful to you all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Perriss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Jon Perriss
Headmaster