



WELLESLEY HOUSE

* A SCALIS PATULIS AD ASTRA *

Dear Parents

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back on Monday March 8th (the evening of Sunday 7th March for some of our boarders). I write with further detail and some valuable information for you.

Boarding

Mrs Spencer will be in touch next week with all returning boarders with specifics around timings for drop off and unpacking and any other necessary information for our families. We will be open as normal for flexi and occasional boarding, so please liaise with Mrs Spencer (lfs@wellesleyhouse.net) as necessary.

Academic programme and forms

We will continue to operate three "bubbles", exactly as we did for the Michaelmas term. A reminder that these are a junior bubble (based in the pre-prep), a middle school bubble for JL, Block 4 and Block 3 (based in the main school) and a senior bubble for Block 1 and 2 (based in and around Cold Corridor). Pick up and drop off for parents will run exactly as it did in the Michaelmas term. Drop off will be from 0810 as is normal during term time. A reminder that pre-prep children will need to be collected at the end of the day by 1710 and middle and senior school day pupils will need to be collected by 1800 at the latest, so that our boarding bubble can then begin at that time.

The Block 3 form will be split for some of their academic lessons but as was the case last term, they will remain as one tutor group and will register altogether as normal in their form in the morning. Mrs Sabin-Dawson will provide the Block 3 pupils with all of the information that they need with regards to their slightly tweaked timetables.

For international pupils who cannot return as a result of travel restrictions, we will provide an online programme.

Catering

This will operate as was the case last term and to ensure that we have a clear idea of numbers and registers for suppers, we will be asking day parents to complete the usual electronic form for your children for their supper requirements for the week ahead. This will be shared from the office in due course.

Uniform and changing rooms

Pupils will be required to wear school uniform as normal when they return. As you are aware, our changing rooms have been segregated to fit with bubbles.

Activities

These will be run (as they were in the Michaelmas term) by our teaching staff. We will continue to provide a diverse and inspiring activities programme.

Poetry Recitation and Wellesley Challenge

We will be staging the final of our poetry recitation competition in the Old Hall or on the outdoor stage (likely to be in the last week of term). This will be an internal event only and we will explore the possibility of recording this event for parents and wider members of our community. Mr Hallam will also be running the next round of the Wellesley Challenge.

Sport

Pupils will take part in games and PE as normal, although we will have no inter school fixtures for the remainder of the Lent term. Boys and girls will be expected to take part in football, hockey, cross-country and netball as part of their games programme, and there may well be opportunities for squash, cricket and golf through the activities programme. Please can you ensure that pupils have the necessary named kit, including a water bottle on their return to school.

Parents in school buildings

We are sorry that parents are not allowed in the school building and we ask you to take all necessary precautions when waiting at pick up for your children to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 within our community. Parents can access the school office in person if required through ringing the front door rather than walking through the school corridors. Thank you.

School transport / minibus

We will be running our services as we were last term but with clear guidance on a set seating plan for pupils and face masks and other hygiene measures. Geraldine and Lisa will confirm bookings with parents who need to access this service.

Facemasks for Block 1 and 2 pupils and staff

Facemasks will be required for all Block 1 and 2 pupils in all corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot be easily maintained. For the remainder of this term, this will also include whilst in classrooms. Thank you for your support with this.

Testing for Block 1 and 2 pupils and staff

In line with government advice, rapid testing using lateral flow devices will be used at Wellesley for Block 1 and 2 pupils and staff who do not display symptoms. Testing is optional but strongly encouraged and will be conducted and overseen by trained members of our staff. Please can we ask that parents of Block 1 and 2 pupils complete the consent form that is attached to this email and return it to the office? These rapid tests will begin on Sunday 7th March for boarders and Monday 8th March for day pupils. This is only relevant to Block 1 and 2 pupils. After these initial tests (with results being received within 30 minutes of the swab test), these pupils will be offered two further (optional but encouraged) tests at Wellesley between 3 and 5 days apart and thereafter home testing kits will be provided and more information will follow on this. Of course, if your child is displaying any

symptoms, we ask for you to communicate this with us via the office and for them not to come into school and follow the necessary steps as detailed in the government guidance [here](#).

I cannot tell you how excited we are to be welcoming the pupils back to Wellesley for the remainder of this term and we look forward optimistically to a fulfilling and brilliant summer term ahead. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

All best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Franklin".

Gavin Franklin
Headmaster