

20th May 2020

## Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope that you and your families are well and that your child is enjoying our Guided Distance Learning Programme.

Leighton Park is busy planning ahead for the reopening of the School in September. We have created a dedicated planning team to ensure that we do this in a safe and effective way for our learning community.

We are giving particular consideration to arrangements for our boarding community and I wanted to write to you to offer some reassurance that we are examining all of our processes and arrangements very carefully. While this process is ongoing, I can update you that we are intending to introduce the following measures and safeguards as part of our reopening strategy:

- Dedicated Planning Team, made up of senior staff
- Regular deep cleaning of our facilities and boarding houses
- Hand sanitiser and hand washing between classes
- Social distancing, with small class sizes and staggered breaks and mealtimes to limit student interaction
- Masks for students and staff
- Restricted access to School for visitors with robust vetting system
- Health checks and clear procedure/isolation for any students showing symptoms. We have three full time nurses and medically trained staff in each of our boarding houses
- Boarding house access will be strictly limited to boarding students and staff

We are also making provision for a two week Head Start programme should our international boarders need to join the School in advance of the start of term. This programme will be confirmed when the School has had relevant guidance from the UK Government. The proposed programme will offer students study skills sessions, fun activities to strengthen the community and additional support with academic English. We will also support students during the half term break, if it is not possible or practicable for students to return to their home countries during that break.

I know that some families have been concerned that the COVID 19 pandemic may result in cases of student bullying, particularly against Asian students. Leighton Park takes a zero tolerance approach to bullying and our twice daily tutor meetings help to ensure that any inappropriate behaviour from students is identified and managed quickly. We are an International Baccalaureate World School and very much value the richness that international students add to our vibrant learning community.

We would like to reassure families that we take our duty of care for all of our students extremely seriously. The School will continue to monitor the situation closely and I look forward to updating you further as we work through our detailed planning. Please do get in touch with me if you have any questions. You can contact me at <a href="mailto:mylesnash@leightonpark.com">mylesnash@leightonpark.com</a>.

With best wishes to you and your family.

Myles Nash

Director of Boarding