



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

24th June 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

My thoughts remain with you all and I sincerely hope that you and your families are well. Thank you for your many and ongoing messages of support; we remain in good spirits and we are busy planning for a return to face to face learning on the Park.

I am writing with an update about our September plans ahead of my usual end of term letter. Happily, we have managed to bring back small groups of Year 10 and 12 for some face to face time over the last two weeks of our term (all that is currently permitted by the DfE). It has been lovely to see those few faces and has made those staff who are now back on site feel encouraged that we are on the path to a full return. Our Guided Distance Learning Programme and LP@Home have also continued with positive feedback on the alterations we made in response to the parent and student surveys. We have also been developing our planning for the different and ever-changing scenarios that may be permitted come September.

Planning for that return is complex and has involved a good deal of creative problem-solving. It is also, for the moment, a theoretical exercise as we simply do not know what national guidelines will be in place. We are therefore doing all we can to be ready for a range of possibilities, including reflecting on the limited return in place at the moment. We are fully planning to be able to start the Autumn Term with all students and staff in School. We also recognise that remote learning or teaching will remain necessary, to enable some families to maintain in isolation or shielding. As such, all our scenarios allow for a blend of face to face and distance learning, the emphasis on the former. Please be reassured that our absolute priority is to ensure the safest possible environment for students and staff. This will clearly require changes to familiar routine and considerable flexibility, but we will brief everyone fully before return, during the late part of the holiday.

Our plans are currently based upon the premise of lessons operating with social distancing (SD) measures in place. Needless to say, if social distancing were reduced to 1.5m (like much of Europe) or 1m (in accordance with WHO guidelines), things would become easier. You will hopefully have seen that Leighton Park has signed up to the [Boarding Schools' Association COVID-safe Charter](#).

While they are subject to change, I would like to update you on some principal assumptions around which we are basing our planning:

- We expect all students to follow a full academic timetable in School each day

Head: Matthew L S Judd BA | Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road, Reading, RG2 7ED | T: +44 (0)118 987 9600 | www.leightonpark.com

The Leighton Park Trust is a Registered Charity. No. 309144 and a Company limited by Guarantee No. 171900

Registered office: Old School, Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road, Reading, RG2 7ED

- The School Day will start at the normal time
- The School Day will finish after academic lessons
- Tutors will remain your primary point of contact
- School transport will be operating but with some adaptations
- Breakfast and Lunch will be provided, albeit with modifications to increase hygiene and safety
- We will restrict access to boarding houses by day students, with provision for break times and tutor sessions made in our academic buildings
- Parents' evenings will be held virtually
- The co-curricular programme will operate with significant adjustments
- We are planning to incorporate the following to enhance hygiene and safety:
 - one-way systems in School
 - one-way system for dropping off and picking up your children
 - additional handwashing stations and cloakroom facilities
 - enhanced cleaning routines and following national protocols
 - use of facemasks will be permitted
 - Meeting for Worship and Collects will take place virtually in tutor groups
 - systematic health checks
 - staggered student lunch and break arrangements to avoid interaction between year groups
 - no sports fixtures or events will take place in the Autumn Term
 - parents and other visitors will only be permitted on the Park by appointment and after vetting
 - the Health Centre will be open and staff provided with PPE
 - smaller tutor groups

With these arrangements, we are aiming to operate above and beyond the recommended guidelines and we will continue to review our systems and processes through ongoing risk assessment. Before we open, we will confirm full details to you and will also invite you to ask questions and seek clarification.

I hope that the outlined information above is helpful and reassures you that we will be offering the safest and fullest possible education to the largest possible number of students in September. That is our hope and our intention. I recognise that articles in the media and this communication itself will give rise to a host of very reasonable questions and can only ask for your continued patience. You will understand that much uncertainty remains, so we will keep communicating as fully as circumstances allow.

We continue to miss seeing you all. Therefore, it is heartening to be writing about the prospect of gathering once more. We must, however, be realistic about the fact that the precise timing and arrangements for return will not be confirmed for some time yet.

With very best wishes,



Matthew LS Judd

Head