



BISHOPSTROW COLLEGE

A pathway to excellence

10 January 2021

Dear parents, agents and guardians,

Following Monday's announcement by the Prime Minister of a further period of national lockdown in the UK, we have had to change our teaching provision at Bishopstrow. The pandemic situation has changed significantly since Christmas and the government has said that boarding schools should operate remote teaching.

We have therefore resumed our online learning programme, Bishopstrow Online, for all students until at least mid-February. Our students are being supported by those teachers and boarding staff who make up our 'boarding household bubble'.

This change affects our on-campus students more than those who are already studying online from home. However, the strength of the Bishopstrow approach is once again giving significant benefit to our students compared to students at other schools. As all resident students and all resident staff at Bishopstrow College are in the same household bubble, lessons can be delivered face to face by teachers who are in the resident bubble. Mr and Mrs Jackson, Mr Fleming and Mr Dando are all currently teaching in person to the students who are on campus.

As you will also realise, our online programme is now well established and is very successful in providing excellent academic support and pastoral care for our students. The pandemic has shown us many times that the College community is resilient and that we can respond admirably to whatever comes our way. I am confident that Bishopstrow's characteristic creativity and kindness will allow us to do so again. We are expecting further guidance for schools from the Department for Education and will of course share any major updates as we receive them.

The Prime Minister's announcement also mentioned some implications for students taking this summer's public examinations, although international examinations are currently going ahead. The picture should become clearer over the next week and we will of course update you without delay when there is significant information to pass on. Two of the examination boards, Cambridge International and Edexcel, confirmed on Friday that IGCSE examinations will go ahead in private schools in June 2021. We will provide further details on this development in due course.

We are here to help, advise and reassure you and your sons and daughters, so please do not hesitate to contact us via email if you have any queries. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and understanding during these extraordinary times. My colleagues and I are very grateful for your messages of appreciation and support.

Best wishes,

Stuart Nicholson
Principal

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