

# Parent/Guardian Information

## Guidance for Boarding

### Start of term

### September 2020

**This information is intended for parents and guardians of boarding pupils with further details of the logistics put in place for boarders at the start of the new school year.**

**New pupils** should arrive at school, directly to either Caldecote, Wilton or Fortfield, on Monday, 7th September any time from 2.30pm, in home clothes. If there is a clash with a new pupil meeting, please prioritise the timing of that meeting.

**Returning Boarders** should be dropped at their house between 4.00pm and 6.00pm on Monday, 7th September. We would prefer to limit the number of people in the houses so if at all possible we request that you allow our house staff to help your child unpack. We fully understand, however, that some of you prefer to do this yourself. Please can you let your houseparent know in advance if you will need to come into the house, particularly into the dorms, so that we can plan accordingly. There will be a meal provided for the children at 6.00pm and we encourage you to have said goodbye by then if at all possible.

**If you need to come into the house** please can we ask you to observe the following requests:

- It might be that you are asked to come at a particular time, or are requested to wait outside until there is space.
- With that in mind, can we please also request that your time in the house is as brief as possible.
- Please use the hand sanitiser or wash basin on entering and leaving the house.
- Please wear a facemask while inside.

We fully understand that drop-off day can be a stressful day for you and your family and are very grateful for your understanding of our need to take seriously our guidance to prevent the spread of infection.

**Dayboarders** are encouraged to arrive on Monday 7th even if that will not be their usual boarding night, so that we can settle everyone in and establish routines. On other days please drop your child directly to their boarding house between 8.00am and 8.20am, using the gate opposite Fortfield. Please stay in your car and allow your child to be greeted at the door by our house staff.

Please collect them at the end of the day from the house, by ringing the bell or letting them know you are at the front of school. **Please ensure they have told an adult in their house they are leaving and been signed out by the house.**

**Weekends.** In accordance with our new risk assessments and contact policies, we are now happy for you to collect your child at weekends, should you need to. Please let your houseparent know if you plan to take your child out at the weekend. We strongly recommend that, especially if your child is a full boarder, they remain in school for at least the first weekend, in order to help them settle and to make friends. There will be activities planned for them to enjoy throughout the weekend. Year 6 boarders who are staying with us for weekends will take part in the Saturday morning activities program.

**Face masks.** Whilst facemasks are not currently mandatory in school, it may be that we are able to arrange a trip offsite. If we use a coach we will be required to wear a facemask while travelling. If at all possible, please send your child back to school with at least two facemasks, and a small sealable bag.

**Uniform.** Pupils will be wearing games kit at least until exeat. Please ensure therefore that they have some spares to save daily laundry, and certainly more than one games polo shirt (their house polo shirt is fine as a spare). Additional items are available from the school shop, our house staff can purchase these on your behalf with your permission. Summer uniform will not be required at all this term, so please do not send back any summer blouses or shirts. Any that were left at school at the end of last term can be taken home.

**Other items to bring.** It is vital that we have your child's signed medical form and, if overseas, the name and contact details of a guardian based in the UK, before you leave. Please also remember to transfer their £60 pocket money to the relevant house account, the details are available from their houseparent. We would prefer a bank transfer to cheques at the moment, please.

**Contact.** Should you have any further queries regarding the above, please do get in touch with your child's Houseparent or with Mrs Alice Gould, DCPS Head of Boarding ([AGould@deanclose.org.uk](mailto:AGould@deanclose.org.uk) )