OUR PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Ensuring your safety and wellbeing
Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you and your families are all safe and well in what remains a challenging situation and difficult time for everyone.

I am very conscious of the need to provide all of you and your families with reassurance about the health, safety and welfare of your children as and when the College re-opens and this is equally applicable to all whether your child is returning to us or joining us as a new student in September 2020.

As those of you who have children already attending the College know, we pride ourselves upon the fulsome pastoral care we offer and not just that provided by teachers, senior tutors and house parents but from across the spectrum of staff in a variety of roles at the College.

We are a small college but we like to think of ourselves as being a very large, diverse and vibrant family that looks after one another.

I do hope that what you read provides reassurance and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or questions.

Kind regards

Mark Love
Our annually produced Student & Parent Handbook including guidance about travelling to the U.K. to study and staying safe, will be issued in July to all students who are returning to or starting at the College in September 2020.

**INDUCTION**
Boarding students will arrive at the College according to an agreed, *staggered schedule*, from 4th – 6th September before the formal start of the term for students on 7th September when Induction for new students and Registration for returning students will take place. Collection from the airport and private car transfer can be arranged by the College, using one designated company who will be following safety guidelines.

We will offer our usual warm welcome at Induction and Registration including a medical meeting with our College Matron, Rosemary Finamore.

**COVID-19 TESTING**
A commercial swab test or swab and antigen test for Covid-19 will be taken upon each student’s arrival. All of our staff will have already been tested before any student arrives with us.

Results of Covid-19 test: once a negative test is confirmed students will be able to move between college buildings and meet friends whilst observing social distancing guidelines as applicable in September. Students will be advised to spend free time within close proximity to the College’s teaching and boarding buildings for the first two weeks of the new term.

Should there be any positive Covid-19 test we will be fully prepared for it at any point throughout the academic year by providing appropriate medical care for students whilst in supervised, self-isolation.
Studying at the College

CLEANING BUILDINGS

The College teaching buildings will be deep cleaned prior to the term starting. Our cleaning contractors are an Oxford based professional cleaning company established in 1955 with extensive and detailed knowledge and experience of specialist cleaning.

All classrooms, common areas and entry/exit doors etc. will be cleaned regularly throughout the working day.

Staff and students will be able to wear face masks, perspex visors and disposable gloves if they wish when in any situation which puts them in closer contact with one another.

TEMPERATURE SCANNING

Temperature scanning technology will be situated in each of the teaching buildings and the temperature of all entering the building will be taken and only those without a temperature that indicates a potential COVID symptom will be permitted to enter the building beyond the reception areas.

Staff will be tested for Covid-19 before the start of term.

Students and staff are expected to follow all social distancing as is in place in September and the College is introducing a number of circulation routes in the college buildings including one-way systems in order to facilitate this.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Students and staff are expected to follow all hygiene guidance with specific regard to regular handwashing. Sanitiser gel will be widely available throughout the College.

Students and staff will be asked to be mindful of their temperature and anybody with any concern should report to the college matron.

They should report any symptoms of cough and/or fever to their house parent (boarding students) or college Matron (boarding and day students) immediately.

OUTSIDE OF THE COLLEGE

Students should follow all social distancing and infection mitigation guidelines when in the local community.

College class/group trips will not take place until further notice. When they do resume all travel will be carefully risk assessed and public transport avoided where possible.

The College must be notified in advance (at least 48hrs) of potential visits by family, friends, guests and prospective students for these to be managed in a way which follows all necessary guidance and presents minimum risk to the college community. The College reserves the right to postpone a visit request.
Boarding

All of our boarding students live in single rooms and have private bathrooms, so there is no need for them to share their living space and be in close contact with one another.

CLEANING AND HYGIENE

As with the teaching buildings, the boarding houses will be deep cleaned before the start of term and the common areas and entry/exit doors will be cleaned throughout the day.

Students will be asked to keep their own personal spaces, e.g. desk, wardrobe, bookshelves etc. in their bedrooms tidy so that our staff can clean all surfaces.

Meals delivered to the boarding houses may be consumed in each student’s individual bedroom rather than the social dining areas in the boarding houses to maintain any social distancing requirements in place as at September.

ACCESS TO A DOCTOR

Boarding students are registered with the doctor’s practice upon their enrolment with the college that neighbours the college’s building in King Edward Street and the practice has confirmed their willingness and ability to provide the College with fulsome support.

STAYING FIT AND HEALTHY

The College will not organise or authorise student participation in contact sports until a relevant national body and/or U.K. government states that it is safe to do so.

Keeping fit and staying healthy is encouraged however and a superb fully equipped, privately operated gym neighbours our St. Ebbe’s boarding house, a five-minute walk from the college’s teaching buildings.

HOLIDAYS

Our boarding houses will remain open over the October 2020 and February 2021 half-terms as always. Should the need arise due to travel restrictions we will remain open over the Christmas holidays.
It is our strong intention to open the College at the start of term in September 2020. The gradual re-opening of national economies around the world is a positive sign, as is of course the re-opening of schools in England in June 2020 through a staged process.

**ONLINE LEARNING**

If the College was not authorised to re-open its boarding provision in September 2020, or we felt it too much of a risk to do so after seeking guidance from the relevant authorities and agencies, we would then offer remote learning to all students, as delivered during the summer term.

In this case, remote learning would take place from the start of the first term until a later physical start date, e.g. October/November 2020 or January 2021 which would see the physical resumption and delivery of a full A-level or GCSE course.

To find out more about our online learning provision, please visit our website.
Fees

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If the school is still teaching online, will I need to pay the full tuition fee?
Yes. Given that all students will have access to the same lessons, we are anticipating a full tuition fee.

Will I still need to pay for boarding if my child is unable to travel to the UK for the start of term in September?
You will need to pay the full boarding fee in order to meet U.K. visa requirements. If your child is unable to arrive for the start of term we will then refund 80% of the fee for when they are not here.

When will the school invoice for September 2020?
We will start sending out invoices at the end of May 2020 so we are able to start issuing Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) numbers from June 2020.
PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE

Students who are studying in the U.K. with a Tier 4 visa cannot take out private healthcare insurance as an alternative to paying the health immigration surcharge as this is a mandatory fee included as part of your visa application.

It is a personal decision whether you also choose to have private healthcare insurance. If you already have medical insurance in your home country, you may wish to check whether this can be extended to cover your stay in the U.K.

COVID-SAFE CHARTER

Oxford Sixth Form College is a member of the Boarding Schools’ Association and therefore adheres to the BSA Covid-Safe Charter that accompanies this information, ensuring full compliance with any Government quarantine or self-isolation requirements which are in force at the time of your arrival.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions relating to anything detailed in this document, please email Principal Mark Love directly at:
mark.love@oxfordsixthformcollege.com