



Friday, 28th August 2020

Dear Parents,

CoVID-19 and the Michaelmas return to school

I am pleased to share with you, accompanying this letter, our Pupil and Parent Guide for the return to school this September. I hope that you and your sons find it an easy-to-read, helpful support as you prepare for the start of the new school year within the context of CoVID-19.

During the summer break, the government's guidance published to schools and relevant organisations has been subject to near-continuous updating. When I wrote to all parents in July I expressed my commitment to opening the school fully to all pupils this September. I also hold a commitment, shared by my colleagues, to ensure the richest possible educational, social and therapeutic provision for our pupils whilst protecting the safety and wellbeing of every pupil and their family, and of every member of the school's staff and their families. We have therefore navigated the changing guidance to develop comprehensive plans which will enable all of our pupils to return to school safely, and to thrive within a provision they recognise and enjoy.

The attached Guide distils from, now vast and extremely detailed, comprehensive risk-management plans the information which I hope is of most use to pupils and their families. Please be aware that the government guidance issued to schools continues to evolve, and it is likely that we will need to adapt our decision-making and individual arrangements as the term progresses. I will ensure that any significant developments are communicated to all parents as early as possible.

Public examination results

The summer has also included the widely reported publication and adjustments to senior pupils' GCSE, A Level and BTec qualification results. This has been an extraordinarily difficult time for those pupils and their families and they have demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of extraordinary uncertainty and change. It goes without saying that the impact on those members of the school's staff most heavily involved during this summer holiday period has been exhausting, and I am grateful to so many of my colleagues who have worked so hard in support of pupils, their parents and of the school.

Reports of our pupils' outcomes, both at Level 2 (GCSE and equivalent) and at Level 3 (A Level and equivalent) can be accessed through the school website, under the Social Media News and Latest News filters from the Information menu tab.

Staff news

At the end of the school year I announced the decision of Mr Andy Williamson to relinquish his senior-management responsibilities as the Principal Deputy Head in order to return to full-time teaching in the Physical Education department. I am hugely grateful to Mr Williamson for his service as a senior leader for eighteen years.

I also announced the appointment of History teacher, Mr Lewis Clarkson, to the school's most senior leadership team, in the position of Assistant Head (Pupils). In this capacity Mr Clarkson will continue his previous responsibility in providing a lead on pupils' progress, and will also provide leadership for pupils' behaviour and

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conduct, recognising the integral link between progress – both socially and academically – and pupils' daily experience.

Mr Armand Faasen has accepted the new appointment to the extended Senior Management Team as Director of Pastoral Care, and will work closely with all year-group pastoral leads (Heads of Year), and with Mr Clarkson and Deputy Head Mrs Hammond to meet the pastoral needs of all pupils and Sixth Formers.

Mrs Olivia Turner has now returned from maternity leave to resume her leadership of the junior years, and I am grateful to Ms Adele Williams (née Cross) and to Ms Chloe Durrant for their joint-leadership of the junior years during Mrs Turner's absence.

The new Ms Adele Williams was married at the start of the summer holidays, and we wish her and Jo congratulations. Congratulations also to Head of English, Miss Anabel Flamank – now Mrs Snowball – and her new husband, Dylan. We also wish congratulations to Miss Sutton, Speech & Language Therapist, on her wedding this summer and new name: Mrs Joanna Fry.

I am delighted to report that Mrs Hannah Dalby, now on maternity leave, gave birth to her daughter, Matilda during the summer holiday.

Ms Williams' role from September is that of Deputy Head of Junior Years, supporting Mrs Turner, and also as Key Stage 2/3 Curriculum Transition Lead. Ms Durrant will lead the Year Seven pastoral team as Head of Year, and Mr Scott Bradshaw, having seen last year's Year Eleven through their senior years as their Head of Year, now takes over Mr Faasen's year-group.

Mr Jarred Cooper continues as Director of Extra-Curricular Education, but has now relinquished his boarding role and will be teaching in the Geography department. Miss Julia Collington continues as Senior Housemistress for Main House, but will now also be teaching Drama. Mrs Elizabeth Hetherington will combine her Admissions Registrar role with the teaching of A Level and Key Stage 3-4 Music.

We are excited to welcome two new members of staff to the More House team this September: Miss Sara-Jane Brownlee, Speech & Language Therapist; and Mrs Jessica Breese, Teaching Assistant in the Junior Years.

Road-works

It seems that I am doomed forever to write about travel disruption, and last year's plagues now return to haunt us. As of this week, Kennel Lane – the minor road leading from the A287 to the school's Lower Entrance – has been closed for essential gas repairs. It is expected to remain impassable to vehicles for at least the first week of term, and possibly longer. This will inevitably cause disruption to journeys and I urge you to consider alternative approaches in advance.

As I write, Moons Hill is also subject to roadworks but is passable under the control of temporary traffic-lights.

We are currently in communication with the coach company to ensure satisfactory plans are in place to manage drop-off and collection of pupils travelling to and from Farnham railway station such that they are not delayed.

Further on, it is expected that the gas works will close Moons Hill, but we are in negotiations with the company, seeking to delay the road closure until our two-week October half-term holiday.

And finally

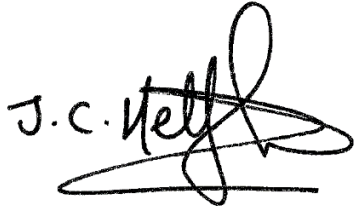
If your son is new to More House School this September, I hope that you have received a copy of the end-of-year magazine "2019-20 in review" during the summer. You should, separately, receive details of the new pupils' induction afternoon scheduled on Monday, 7th September. There are slightly different arrangements for new Sixth Formers, communicated by Mr Iain Yeoman, Head of Sixth Form. If you feel you are missing information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

All parents of boarders should also expect to receive boarding-specific information from Mr Fred Pennell, Deputy Head (Head of Boarding) in respect of the return to school.

I and my colleagues are very excited by the prospect of the start of the new school year and the Michaelmas term. We are preparing to welcome into school the largest number of pupils on roll for a September start in the school's history, and are eager to return to a daily experience which feels more normal than we have all endured for the past five and a half months.

I hope that your sons are similarly excited, and I look forward to greeting them very shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.C. Hetherington'. The signature is stylized with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Mr Jonathan C. Hetherington BA (Hons) MSc (Ed) QTS
Headmaster