

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents

### **Fees for the Summer and Autumn Terms 2020**

Following my letter to you last week withdrawing the fee notices you had received, I am now able to confirm our revised plans for fees for next term and the Autumn Term.

As I said last week, we want to offer our pupils strong, consistent and high-quality education during the period of closure, and we want to be fair in what we ask parents to pay. Accordingly, as I said, we will be making no charge across our group for boarding or for nursery provision; we will make sure that you are not billed for extras that you will not receive; and we will look to make substantial savings during the period of closure and pass these back to parents in full.

We still do not know whether schools will return before the summer holidays. It may be that this will be possible but, if so, it is unlikely to be for very long. Our thoughts are therefore very focused on providing the best possible experience of learning remotely while doing as much as possible to ease the financial pressure on parents during this period of uncertainty.

We also need to be sure that our schools are financially sustainable, able to open as soon as the restrictions have ended and can immediately return to providing the full school experience that you and your children are used to and expect. There are, unfortunately, already examples of stand-alone independent schools which have announced that they will not survive the current situation and are closing; there are likely to be more.

Over the past week, we have therefore conducted a full review of potential savings which we can make and pass back to parents, including as I said last week, making the fullest possible use of available government support. Schools have looked very rigorously at costs, and for as long as their buildings are closed, they will be making savings in a number of areas. We have renegotiated central contracts to make substantial savings while being fair to our suppliers and we are furloughing all staff whose role is not directly required for continuity of education at this time. As a charity, all surpluses are reinvested in our schools at all times. However, we have been able to defer some planned capital investment into future years in order to provide further savings this year, reflecting the reality that we cannot in any case start new capital projects at this time.

As a result of this, I can now confirm fee reductions for the summer term. Our schools are determined to provide the best possible education to all children during this time and are offering very strong home learning support, which will be further enhanced in the summer term. We believe that all children enrolled at our schools will continue to learn well and make good progress. However, we know that pupils cannot access the full experience and that the youngest children require more support to take full advantage of the guided home learning. Therefore, day fees will be reduced for all pupils and

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reductions will be greatest for the youngest children. We can now commit to the following for the summer term:

- For Reception: a 30% reduction on normal day fees;
- For Year 1 and Year 2: a 25% reduction on normal day fees;
- For all other Year Groups: a 10% reduction on normal day fees.

These reductions will apply for the whole term, regardless of whether schools return before the summer holiday. They are additional to the removal of charges for extra services which will not now be received and will be applied to your net day fees. In this term's bills, which will come out shortly, the only 'extra' to be included is exam fees, as explained last week. We will separately bill, later in the term, any payments due for any 'extras' which you have received (for example, during the course of the term just finished).

I can also announce that we will be freezing fees until at least January 2021 so that Autumn Term 2020 fees will be the same as for Autumn 2019. As I said last week, we will continue to keep the position under review and look for further savings. Any further savings achieved will be passed back to parents in Autumn Term bills.

I believe that what we are announcing reflects both the spirit of our commitment to you and the reality of the situation we are all in. I am also conscious that the substantial economic shock created by the current crisis has had a significant impact on some parents. If this is the case for you, then please do make contact with our central team using the details on your bill, or directly with your Head. We are looking to increase our ability to provide support for cases of hardship and will take as sympathetic and supportive an approach as we can.

In that context, a number of parents have kindly said that they are willing to continue to pay full fees in order to support their school. We would very much welcome it if parents who can afford to pay full fees at this time would donate the saving we are offering to a bursary and hardship fund for your school. All money raised in this way will be used to support children and families who could not otherwise afford it to attend or continue to attend the school. We will write further with the best way to do this for each school.

Thank you again for your patience, tolerance and support for your school.

With very best wishes,



Sir Jon Coles  
Chief Executive