

BRYANSTON

11 February 2020

Dear parents,

I write with a further update relating to the Novel Coronavirus and the additional measures the School is taking to keep pupils and staff safe. We continue to monitor the situation regularly and to follow the advice of Public Health England (PHE) and the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA).

I wrote on 29 January 2020 to say that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has advised against all but essential travel to China. In addition, the School strongly advises against pupils travelling to, or receiving visits from, East and South East Asian countries at half-term. These are:

- China
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

Anyone choosing not to follow this advice will be required to self-isolate in the UK for a period of 14 days before being allowed back into School. Parents are advised that it is considered unlikely that guardians would be able to assist under such circumstances. The School has placed restrictions on all other visits to and from affected areas for the time being. As the situation is a dynamic one, I suggest parents keep updated by monitoring the PHE and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office websites, as there is no way of knowing which other countries will have travel restrictions put in place. Their latest advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

It is highly likely that restrictions will still be in place at Easter, and everyone should now plan for that eventuality. Those who were planning to travel overseas at Easter are asked to confirm their arrangements with Housemasters/Housemistresses, and this includes travel to areas not currently at risk, as the outbreak continues to spread. Any pupil

travelling to or receiving visitors from an area which is currently at risk or becomes so before the start of the summer term, will be required to self-isolate in the UK for a period of 14 days before being readmitted to School. Therefore, those who have been with parents in the UK for the whole Easter break will be outside the incubation period and able to return to School unless they have been in contact with other potentially infected persons. Should the virus begin to spread within the UK, this guidance will be updated taking into account the Chief Medical Officers' requirements and other advice.

The whole school community is being mindful of those with friends and family in affected areas and we are well aware of the significant burden of any restrictions the School makes. Please be assured however that the health and welfare of every member of our school community is our primary concern. I am sure you will understand that with the examination period looming we need to take a cautious approach. The School is grateful for your ongoing support and engagement at this difficult time, especially those parents who have already changed travel arrangements for half-term.

Further updates will follow as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely,

P J Hardy
Second Master