

# BRYANSTON

18 March 2020

Dear parents,

As you may have seen or heard, the Government has just announced that all schools in Britain are to close by the end of the week. The number of school closures in independent and state schools has increased rapidly over the past twenty-four hours, with reasons ranging from staff shortages to the impossibility of isolating various pupils for 14 days in boarding schools.

All along, Bryanston's line has been that we are following the Government's advice, and therefore, with great regret, I am emailing to tell you that we too will close a week early for the Easter holiday. **Please would you therefore liaise with your son or daughter's hsm to arrange a convenient time to come and collect your child and their books and belongings either on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.** Please may I ask that, if possible, you do not come tomorrow (Thursday); this will give us time to ensure that the pupils have everything ready to take home. It will also reassure them, many of whom we anticipate will be quite upset.

We are well aware that we have some pupils who are not due to fly home until next week. Please rest assured that we will look after any such pupils next week as well. Likewise, if you are a key worker (e.g. in the NHS) and it would help you if your child was to remain here next week, then please let us know.

Next week, until the scheduled end of term on Friday 27 March, teachers will continue to set work for pupils remotely and we will use the week to ensure that all staff are trained and equipped, so that if next term does not start as planned on Monday 20 April, the provision of education will continue as effectively as possible.

Please may I ask that you handle this information sensitively. The pupils will have this explained to them this evening by their hsm in house meetings at 7.20 p.m. (although some will inevitably hear about the Government's announcement before then). I would be grateful if you would wait until after those meetings before contacting your children, so that we may control how

they are all informed that term is to end prematurely. It will, understandably, deeply unsettle some of them, particularly those far from home.

The Second Master or the Head of Boarding will send out any further relevant details in due course.

May I again thank you for your support of the School's position. It is much appreciated. I cannot tell you how marvellous, kind and mature your sons and daughters have been in their behaviour.

Of course, we will continue to communicate with you in the weeks ahead, as the situation about next term becomes clearer.

With my very best wishes,

**Mark Mortimer**

*Headmaster*