

# BRYANSTON

17 March 2020

Dear parents,

This is an unsettling and unpredictable time for all of us, whether parents, pupils or staff. Of course, I am well aware that every one of us will be concerned about our personal circumstances, family and friends, whatever or wherever they may be. If you live with people who are vulnerable, that will add greater anxiety, and I certainly understand that.

Although yesterday the Government encouraged people to start working from home, their advice continues to be that schools should remain open and we intend to follow that advice. I support that approach.

Let me reassure you that the pupils here are happy, are being well looked after and continue to receive a Bryanston education in as rounded a format as we can currently provide. That is the most important thing. To quote a fellow Head, they are safe and well in body, mind and spirit.

This school is fortunate to have a magnificent body of staff and I commend them to you for their professionalism, dedication and collaboration and for the inspiring example of calm commitment that they continue to set the pupils. The camaraderie and sense of community here is as strong as ever.

My advice to the staff has been clear: that they must read the latest advice from the Government's public health experts and decide as individuals what is the right thing to do, based on their personal circumstances and own level of risk. I trust each of them to make the right decision, but it has to be their decision.

There are many important decisions to be made on behalf of the entire school community on a daily basis and I can assure you that we are taking advice, consulting with the relevant experts and doing our very best to navigate as best we can through uncharted waters.

However, we have to accept that it is now a real possibility that the Government will close all schools in the UK for a period of time. We are

therefore working hard to ensure that, whatever comes our way, we will continue to be able to provide an outstanding education, even if it is delivered remotely for a time.

However, as it currently stands, the School will reopen as planned for the summer term.

Thank you for your support of the School. We are all in this together and the consideration, thoughtfulness and kindness that I have seen recently – from and between parents, staff and pupils – has been wonderful.

We will continue to communicate with you regularly. Please continue to bear with us. We are thinking of you, too.

Regards

**Mark Mortimer**  
*Headmaster*