



BEESTON HALL SCHOOL

20th October 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are enjoying a restful half term. It has been a very steady and stable half term of boarding and I find myself reflecting on how well the boarders have taken to the necessary new COVID19 regime we have had to implement. Those not used to full boarding have acquitted themselves admirably, though I'm sure they are all looking forward to some extended time at home. I would like to also mention the wonderful news that Aurelia Scott and Tilly Freakley will be joining us as full boarders straight after half term.

One or two things have inevitably cropped up that require attention, however. Firstly, there were many boarders who brought from home a number of chocolates, sweets and pot noodles - in fact, two carrier bags' worth were confiscated at the beginning of term and subsequently returned at exeat. In the interests of health, and indeed fairness to the overseas boarders and others, who do not have access to these types of items, please ensure your children do not bring any food in. I can assure you that pupils will not go hungry - particularly in the evenings.

Can I also remind you that pupils have no need for cash in school and the appearance of it is of a great concern to me as it can inevitably go missing and cause ructions and accusations. A reminder, too, that hot water bottles are not permitted though dry, microwaveable ones are welcome, as is thermal underwear, which the headmaster has encouraged previously.

Finally, we have – as promised – come to a decision regarding the boarding provision for the Lent term, now that we have seen half a term of successful operation and the positions taken by many of our fellow boarding schools. While the R rate has not improved as we had hoped, our extensive COVID-19 protocols have held up well, with the pods we have established. However, a balance of this, alongside our pastoral responsibilities, means we will offer a hybridised model from January. While there will be no increase / alteration to the exeat schedule, we aim to readopt weekly boarding for Year 6 downwards, for the sake of the children still 'learning to board' – either those existing, or those who would be wishing to start a more limited programme of boarding.

We continue to expect children in Years 7 and 8 to make a full commitment to boarding, so as to contain – but not extinguish - the numbers moving on and off site and preserve the continuity that has supported us so well this term. Like all matters COVID-19 related, we aim to minimise and manage risk, rather than pretend it can be entirely removed.

I hope you all have a restful half term break.

Best wishes,

David Lloyd-Peck