



from Tom Lawson MA (Oxon), Headmaster

02 June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope your children have enjoyed the half term break, perhaps making good use of summer weather and getting away from the regimen of learning on the computer. I also hope that you managed to enjoy some time with your children in holiday mode, though I fully appreciate that the distinction between termtime and holiday for families is nowhere near as distinct as it would be in normal times.

School reopening

On 28 May the UK government confirmed its decision to reopen schools in a phased way starting with the youngest primary age pupils and Year 6 yesterday. Schools will also be permitted to provide Year 10 and 12 pupils with face-to-face meetings from 15 June. With no indication that further changes to government guidance are imminent, there is now no possibility of Year 9, 11 or 13 returning to school before the end of our summer term. I am very sorry for those pupils that they cannot have the normal end-of-summer-term experience; of course, we will run a virtual speech day to celebrate the end of the year in the best way we can.

I am determined to open the College to **all** pupils, including boarders, from the beginning of Michaelmas term in September. Overseas pupils will be welcome and encouraged to return then (restrictions permitting) and if any self-isolation is still required, we will partner with you to ensure it can be managed.¹

From 15 June we are allowed to offer in person meetings for Year 10 and 12 pupils. The rest of this letter is predominantly addressed to parents of pupils in Year 10 and 12.

Year 10 and 12 – opportunity for face-to-face meetings

Government guidance says from 15 June schools should ‘provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and 12 pupils, with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that this should be of a high quality.’

Accordingly, should any pupil in Year 10 or 12 wish to meet with their hsm in the period from June 15 for a face-to-face catch up, you or they can email the hsm to request a time and they will meet with your child in the house garden or at a safe distance in the house common room. Please let your hsm know if you have a particular need for them to meet with their tutor or another teacher and the hsm will arrange this, either by a one-to-one online meeting or in person at the house, depending on the possibility and practicality of the teacher travelling to school.

¹ **Further details for parents of overseas families:** if overseas parents wish to send their children to their guardian two weeks prior to the beginning of term then they can be guaranteed a full start in social activities on the first day of term. We do not plan to offer school accommodation for those two weeks because there will not be anything for them to do to keep busy while obeying quarantine rules. At present, I do not recommend you should do more than allow for the option of travelling early because I am hopeful that quarantine rules will be relaxed somewhat by September for pupils coming from those countries with a low rate of virus transmission. I am sorry that you cannot plan ahead with definitive information but the UK government is not giving us certainty over this policy which it will be reviewing at three-week intervals. I will write as soon as I can give definitive details.

02 June 2020

Letter to parents (7)

We will continue to focus our efforts on delivering remote learning effectively to all pupils, including Years 10 and 12, so please encourage your daughter/son to use the online drop-in sessions that have been and remain available during the week to ensure they get the face-to-face support envisaged by the government.

The constraints imposed on us by the government's regulation do not allow us to return Years 10 and 12 to a normal school routine since pupils would have to be in invariant 'bubbles' which would not allow for subject-specific teaching, and only a quarter may be in at any one time. Nor are the groupings necessary for sport or co-curricular activities workable under the regulations. However, we will continue to plan over this fortnight to see whether we can realistically spin up any other opportunities at school as an option for pupils before the end of term.

I will write again with more detail including, inevitably, the dos and don'ts for pupils coming in for meetings at school. In the meantime, I would very much appreciate a chance to answer your questions and hear your views on either (a) the arrangements above for Years 10 and 12 or (b) plans for return in September for all pupils. Please do feel free to drop in to a Zoom meeting at 1030 (British Summer Time) on Wednesday 3 June, details below.

Join Zoom Meeting²: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82848850725?pwd=cXhOM0l1ajExeE5FMzU1STJ5U3VIZz09>

Meeting ID: **828 4885 0725**

Password: **ebcoll**

If you cannot make the meeting, please email any questions to pbriggs@eastbourne-college.co.uk and I will try to address them on Wednesday if they are of general relevance, or email you directly if they are individual. I will record the Zoom session (audio only) and make available to all parents afterwards.

Kind regards,



Tom Lawson
Headmaster

² If link or Zoom ID doesn't work you can alternatively dial in by telephone:

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+49 30 5679 5800 Germany

+852 5808 6088 Hong Kong SAR

+7 812 426 8988 Russian Federation

+34 917 873 431 Spain

Meeting ID: 828 4885 0725

Password: 012850

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82848850725?pwd=cXhOM0l1ajExeE5FMzU1STJ5U3VIZz09>