



from Tom Lawson MA (Oxon), Headmaster

23 March 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Agents,

I know that hsm's have been in contact and continue to provide encouragement and support. We are desperately missing those pupils still away and cannot wait to see them back at school. I wanted to write to you to thank you for your continued support of the College and to express my understanding that return-to-school travel remains a complex thing to arrange because of Covid rules. It is frustrating that we still see some tough restrictions on travel just as we see the tide turning with rapid falls in infection in the UK, and Eastbourne in particular, as well as a fast, efficient vaccine programme which protects and also reduces transmission.

With the Government guidance now allowing all international pupils (red list countries included) to quarantine within their boarding school, we are actively encouraging all pupils to return for the summer term. First and foremost this is **their school** and we want them to be back, in person, continuing their journey with us and being with their friends to enjoy the social experience. Many parents have already confirmed arrangements, using guardians to quarantine prior to the start of term or taking advantage of our offer to have pupils quarantining in house from 5 April. In addition, and specifically for those pupils in Year 11 and Year 13, while the final details are not confirmed just yet, we would encourage pupils to return to take part in the learning, revision and assessments next term in person.

We anticipate that flight restrictions are only going to relax by July but we do have contingency plans in place just in case any pupil finds it difficult to travel at the end of the summer term. We are working with our trusted partners to explore access to a summer holiday 'camp' experience on site. We will share more details when possible, but please know now that I confirm that residence in an Eastbourne College boarding house through this camp will be possible as a backup if a further flight restriction is put in place.

As always, we are here to support you and will help in any way possible. I am aware that the majority of overseas parents have already made preparations for a safe return next term, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this vote of confidence. If you want to discuss the return arrangements or any of the above in more detail, please do contact your housemaster or housemistress.

While many of our pupils have stayed, or already returned before Easter, it would be fantastic to see **all** pupils back next term. They are very much the heartbeat of the school. We miss them.

With best wishes,

Tom Lawson