



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

Following the updates announced after the government's Cobra meeting yesterday, and the ongoing expert advice we continue to receive as a school, I write to update you on the latest developments.

We are still unaffected by any cases of the virus but continue to adopt a precautionary approach whilst still maintaining the core elements of school life for our pupils.

The safeguarding and wellbeing of our pupils is our highest priority. We monitor and follow the advice we are given by Government, the NHS, the FCO and other experts, including WHO and PHE. They are best placed to advise us on what we need to do.

Events are moving quickly at the moment and can change. We will ensure that we keep you updated to the advice we receive. At present, school will continue to remain open and function in full. The Easter holidays are approximately three weeks away and for these holidays our advice is that your children should remain in the UK with their guardians rather than return overseas. This minimises the travel that pupils will need to undertake and ensures that, when term begins, they are already within the UK and able to return to school.

Travel to and from the UK (and other countries) may be temporarily restricted over the coming weeks and months and therefore, by remaining in the UK, it will be easier for pupils to return to school after the holidays.

If your children do go home, they will then be required to self-isolate on returning to the UK, and we will not be in a position for them to do so in our Boarding Houses. Some regulations on Tier 4 visas have been temporarily lifted and we believe that these will continue to operate in ways that are sympathetic to the situations schools and pupils face. The guidance we are receiving is that external exams will proceed as normal. Therefore, pupils who are due to sit exams will need to be at school in order to take them. For creative subjects such as Drama, Music and Art subjects, the practical exams and assessments take place immediately after Easter.

We appreciate that current circumstances place an exceptional responsibility on guardians; however, it is exactly for circumstances such as this that guardians are needed. We know our guardians take their responsibilities seriously and will be doing everything they can to support those for whom they have a duty of care. Thank you for your continued support.

Circumstances like this can be alarming for children and young people, particularly as they are away from their families, and it is our combined responsibility to provide them with the care and support that they need.

Please be assured we are caring for them here at Lincoln Minster.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark Wallace**  
**Headmaster**

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