



PitsfordSchool

CGW.jbr

Re: Covid-19 coronavirus update and fees

24 March 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to update you on where we are as a school and some information and thoughts about fees.

All of our summer bills for fees are prepared and ready to be posted as usual. Normally, on top of tuition fees, they would include lunches, transport and any other extras but clearly this extraordinary time in which we are living is anything but normal.

The bills set to be dispatched have had removed from them all lunches and transport costs, and you will be credited lunch for this week, where we had to close the school at the Government's behest.

Although we have commitments to our suppliers, we cannot open the school gates and the School has decided to absorb the cost to ease pressures on our parents.

Tuition fees will remain payable in full as the School will continue to deliver a robust learning experience through the transition to online teaching; resources and staff will be available throughout. In addition, our pastoral team will be contacting your children, and you, regularly through this time of crisis to offer support and counsel and my colleagues will be in touch about how that will look soon.

I know that parents of students in Years 11 and 13 are especially concerned at this time and we are following with care the Government's noises (or lack thereof, at the moment) so that our students are well-positioned when the landscape becomes clear. After Easter we will be looking to develop a robust portfolio of evidence on your child's status and progress, for submitting to the examination boards, when required. To that end, there will be exercises set to be marked, and my colleagues Dr Ewington and Mr Harrison will be in touch to describe how the process will work (later this week).

A few parents have asked about examination entry fees – we are investigating this with the Examination Boards but have not heard anything back except that we should continue to invoice their fees for now. When greater clarity appears on what is actually happening with the qualifications, we will let you know (I have been told to expect something in two weeks or so).

With Year 11, we intend to begin the A level courses, seeking to make lemonade with the lemons that fate has served us and again, once that is fully developed, we will be in touch to explain and answer questions.

Headmaster: Dr.C Walker

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I know that some of you are facing severe impacts to your personal finances and this may have an effect on your ability to pay the tuition fees in full, by the start of term, when they are due. The School is a business too and we have our own creditors to satisfy, therefore, as much as I would like to say we can be limitlessly flexible, this is not the case. Please can I urge those of you who can pay your fees promptly to do so, as you would normally. This will help us all enormously.

For those of you who may require a staged payment plan, please contact us directly and we will try to see how we can help. Mrs Sherlock, our Bursar, will be your first point of contact (ssherlock@pitsfordschool.com). As we are working remotely, we can either communicate by email or we can call if that is best.

Please bear with us, as we may not be able to answer you immediately, and we will not be able to wave a magic wand. Tuition fees are due and will continue to be so; whilst we can provide some element of accommodation, this will not be endless. Please be as honest as you can with us and we will work through it together, as we always do at Pitsford, with transparency and fairness guiding everything that we do.

Bills will be sent during Easter and the Finance team will be available throughout the break.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Dr C G Walker
Headmaster



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