



Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Version 3: 27th August 2020

We receive many questions from parents about how we are managing the school in response to the threat from the Covid-19 pandemic. Putting together firm plans in a situation where the rules are changing so often, is difficult. Nevertheless, we do have plans, and these FAQs are designed to answer the questions parents might have about reopening in September and how we are responding to the threat from Covid-19.

These FAQs will be updated regularly and updates will be posted on the Covid-19 page of the School website.

	Question	Answer
1.	<i>What plans has the School made to protect pupils from coronavirus?</i>	<p>We are putting in place a wide range of actions and safety measures to ensure that our pupils and staff are safe as we look forward to reopening in September. This includes additional cleaning practices, rotas for meal times, restricting inter-mixing of Year Group bubbles, and limiting access to boarding houses.</p> <p>We have developed a range of policies and regularly update a dynamic risk assessment to cover areas relevant to the current crisis. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a whole school risk assessment and actions- boarding house risks assessment and actions- isolation and infection control policy update for Covid-19
2.	<i>Does the school have a plan for overseas boarders and for boarders in general for a return in September?</i>	<p>We are expecting boarding to be open from September as boarding houses can be classed as a household and there is no government limit on the number of boarders in a residence. We are working in line with the Boarding Schools' Association's (BSA) recommendations on this.</p> <p>We will be taking measures to ensure that boarding is as safe as possible. We have protocols in place if any boarder falls ill or catches the virus, to ensure it does not spread to the wider school community. We have had boarders attend school continuously since the start of April and throughout lockdown, and this has gone very well.</p>

3.	<i>How will the boarding houses be affected by coronavirus and/or social distancing issues?</i>	<p>As already mentioned, a boarding house acts as one household so pupils do not need to be socially distanced at all times, although we will take sensible precautions and educate pupils in being prudent in the way that they spend time with one another in the boarding house.</p> <p>Precautions will include allocating bathrooms to particular groups, ensuring pupils keep a sensible distance from one another in communal spaces including lounges, TV and Games rooms, and the IT rooms. Rooms in the boarding house will also be arranged to allow for social distancing and to ensure that boarders can still socialise and do so safely.</p>
4.	<i>Will the school quarantine pupils before the start of term?</i>	<p>We have put in place the facility to offer 14 days quarantine for overseas pupils who are unable to make other arrangements for quarantine. The quarantine period started on 17th August. This service is strictly for those pupils who are required to undergo quarantine as required by the Government. Please note that places are limited.</p> <p>All pupils arriving from an overseas country not included in the Government's exempt list, including Flexi Boarders returning from an overseas holiday, will be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine period prior to returning to school.</p>
5.	<i>Will you carry out testing for coronavirus?</i>	<p>The NHS 119 service can arrange for a courier service to bring a test to us and take it away for testing, or advise us to attend a local testing centre, if any pupil displays symptoms and requires testing.</p>
6.	<i>Will the School be staying open for the October half term?</i>	<p>We are reviewing whether we would need to stay open for half term for overseas pupils. It will depend on Government policy at the time. A decision about this will be made in September.</p>
7.	<i>If there is another outbreak, will the School stay open?</i>	<p>Our response will depend on where the outbreak is i.e. if it is a national outbreak, regional 'spike' or if it is within the School. In any event, we aim to remain open throughout, although this is very much dependant on Government guidelines. We have a plan for pupils to stay in School and receive medical and pastoral support. There are extreme circumstances (such as widespread staff illness) where we may have to close but we will do everything in our power to remain open and support pupils at School.</p>
8.	<i>What if the School has to shut due to a second wave of coronavirus?</i>	<p>We would revert to online learning, as we did in March. We regularly review our online offering to ensure pupils receive engaging, productive and meaningful courses. We have been delivering lessons remotely since the start of lockdown.</p>

		<p>If, for any reason, remote learning continues in the Autumn Term 2020, we will be potentially altering our remote learning protocol and it is likely that this may include an increased number of video lessons. We are planning for how we will be able to ensure teaching and learning is delivered to the highest possible standard. As soon as we have Government guidance, we will communicate this with stakeholders.</p>
9.	<p><i>If there is a second wave and the school is affected, will the school be able to continue operating and offering full education with face to face lessons every day, or will boarders have to do online lessons?</i></p>	<p>This will in part depend upon any Government instructions. We are able to move to online learning if circumstances require this, and all our boarding houses are equipped with fast wi-fi in all rooms to support remote learning.</p> <p>It is more likely, if stringent social distancing continues, that we may be able to offer a mixture of in-school learning for some of the time and remote learning online in the boarding houses for the rest of the time. The balance will depend upon the Government guidelines and what we feel is best for pupils educationally and for their wellbeing.</p>
10.	<p><i>Where will pupils stay if they fall ill with Covid-19?</i></p>	<p>We have an onsite Health Centre with 11 beds. Pupils will be isolated in the Health Centre whilst they wait for their parent or Guardian to pick them up. For boarder families where this is not possible we have developed a plan for pupils to be cared for in an isolation area for the required period.</p>
11.	<p><i>Will pupils remain in 'bubbles' or groups?</i></p>	<p>Current Government guidance indicate that pupils should remain in Year Group bubbles. We plan to have classes run as per the normal timetable, which keeps pupils within groupings in their Year Groups. Junior classes will be taught in class groups in their form room for all lessons, with only a small number of lessons taking place in the Senior School. Pupils from different boarding houses will not be allowed to mix.</p>
12.	<p><i>Will you need 'Covid free' certificates for boarders before they come to school in September?</i></p>	<p>We will ask parents to sign a declaration that their child does not have symptoms of Covid-19. Every parent will be asked to confirm whether their child(ren) arrived in the UK within the past 14 days, and whether they have completed any necessary quarantine by showing their completed Public Health Passenger Locator Form.</p>
13.	<p><i>Can my child take a Covid-19 test rather than do two weeks of quarantine?</i></p>	<p>This is not possible. UK Government regulations specify that a 14-day quarantine period must be adhered to by those arriving from countries not included on the Government's exemption list. Regulations do not allow for a test to be undertaken instead of quarantine.</p>

14.	<i>Will pupils be required to wear face masks in School?</i>	Senior School pupils will be expected to wear face masks when moving indoors between classrooms. The face covering should be a mask that is specifically designed to act as a barrier for the face. Any other form of face covering will not be permitted unless authorised by the School.
15.	<i>Will the pupils eat in the Dining Hall?</i>	Meals will be taken in the Dining Hall, and lunch and dinner times will be staggered. A rota will be introduced to reduce the number of pupils in the Dining Hall at any one time. There will be a limited number of 'bubbles' in at any one serving and tables will be cleaned after each serving. In the evenings, boarding houses will be kept to separate areas of the Dining Hall to avoid mixing.
16.	<i>Will Flexi Boarders be able to use their flexi boarding nights?</i>	We are restricting access to boarding houses to limit interaction between different bubbles. Initially, Flexi Boarders will not be able to access their boarding houses, to ensure that we can limit the contact between different groups. We hope to be able to open the booking system for flexi boarding nights later in the year, but this will depend on the circumstances at the time and whether it is safe for us to do so.
17.	<i>Will Flexi Boarders have access to lockers?</i>	We do not foresee that Flexi Boarding pupils will need their lockers, as we have put in place additional guidance that does not require them to bring a PE kit to school (please see question 30 for details). We understand that some pupils may have in the past stored their books for the week in their lockers; we recommend, at this current time, that pupils only bring what they need for the day.
18.	<i>Will there be Saturday morning lessons?</i>	School will be running as normal, including Saturday morning lessons. These will be curriculum lessons and attendance on Saturdays is required for all pupils.
19.	<i>The part closure of the A217 will impact my child's journey to school. Has the School been in touch with the local authority about this?</i>	Yes. We have expressed our concerns regarding the closure of this section of road and the significant impact this will have on pupils, parents and staff who access the school via Gatton Bottom from the M25 junction or southbound on the A217. We have asked the Council to reconsider their plans and/or put in place alternatives that mitigate the impact the closure will on our school and our families.
20.	<i>Will my child still need to have access to a computer at home?</i>	We are recommending that each boarder has either a laptop or tablet that has a keyboard to be able to continue their academic work if they are required to self-isolate, if or lockdown restrictions are put in place once again. Flexi pupils may also find this useful.

		<p>These devices do not need to have Microsoft office on them as the schools licensing covers them to be able to download Word, PowerPoint, excel free. The device basically needs to be able to connect to the internet via WiFi and can run Microsoft teams and Citrix. Information and the link to Citrix for our school is on our website. http://www.raa-school.co.uk/school_online.asp</p>
21.	<i>If boarders need to go home due to coronavirus, will you continue their schooling with online lessons even if local flexi boarding pupils are physically attending school?</i>	<p>Yes. We are taking steps to ensure that pupils will be able to access work remotely from the start of term to ensure that they are not unduly disadvantaged by not being able to be present in School. We are working hard to improve the quality of our remote offer to ensure that more pupils are able to be 'virtually' present in the classroom when they are prevented from being physically present. This is a logistical challenge but we are committed to ensuring that we are able to provide a good offer for pupils whose learning is being disrupted.</p>
22.	<i>What is your policy on refunding boarding fees if the school closes due to a second wave?</i>	<p>This summer term, when we have not been open for most boarders but have been supporting pupils with remote learning, we have charged only 50% of the term's fees. If a second wave occurs and Government guidelines mean we are required to close, we anticipate that this will be for a short period. A concession of fees will depend on the circumstances, Government guidelines and information at the time. There are a number of factors, many of which we cannot at this point predict, that will be taken into consideration.</p>
23.	<i>Will the School offer sports in the new academic year?</i>	<p>Competitive sports such rugby, football and netball will go ahead, following each sport's National Governing body 'return to play' protocols. Football is allowed to be played in groups of 30, rugby has a specific 'Ready4Rugby' game with up to groups of 20 playing at one time, and netball will have skills-based exercises in small groups, with a total group number of up to 30 in the session. Contact is limited and only allowed in football.</p>
24.	<i>Will there be a full co-curriculum programme in the Autumn Term?</i>	<p>We are offering a modified co-curricular and an extended day programme. We are making every effort to offer pupils co-curricular opportunities that are safe and allow for social distancing to take place. Although there will be some limitations on certain activities due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are confident that we are able to offer a good range of activities which are engaging for pupils.</p> <p>The Co-Curricular Risk Assessment is updated and specific measures will be implemented according to activity type. For example, in the Choir/Orchestra, pupils will take part in Year Group bubbles only and the number of participants will be reduced to a maximum of 15.</p>

25.	<i>Will the School still be offering an extended day to parents?</i>	Yes. The extended day will be slightly modified to follow guidelines, but we hope to still be able to offer our families the extended day. Flexi Boarders will be able to remain in school from 7.30am until 7pm Monday to Friday, and 7.30am until 12noon on Saturday. Parents have been emailed details on how they can book to inform us of their extended day requirements.
26.	<i>Will my child be able to keep their phone during the school day?</i>	To make pick up easier, pupils will be allowed to have their mobile phone on them during the day. However, between the times of 8.30am – 3.35pm, phones must be switched off and not visible. If a phone is used, seen or heard during this timeframe, the member of staff who identifies this will follow protocol and confiscate the device.
27.	<i>Can Sixth Form pupils use workshops or teaching rooms during their study periods?</i>	Pupils should only be in the classrooms their classes are timetabled in. We will make areas available for study periods to facilitate independent study – this may take place in Chapel, the Sunley Sixth Form Centre, or in another designated supervised area. Please note that Sixth Formers will not be able to return to their boarding house during study periods.
28.	<i>Will there be any school trips in the Autumn term?</i>	We very much hope so. School trips will be run as per Department of Education and Outdoor Education Advisers Panel guidelines and will be referred to Surrey County Council for approval.
29.	<i>Will pupils need to wear full school uniform when they return in September?</i>	Pupils will be expected to wear full school uniform, including blazers. This follows updated Government guidance which states that school uniform does not need to be cleaned with any additional regularity. We expect all pupils to maintain a smart appearance and follow the school uniform policy.
30.	<i>If my child has PE during the day, where will they be able to change into their kit?</i>	To help maintain social distance, we ask that pupils who have a PE lesson during the school day or after school, or will take part in an activity that requires PE kit, arrive at school wearing their PE kit. Every effort should be made to wear the correct PE kit (supplied by Akuma). However, we understand that this may be difficult if your child has multiple PE lessons or physical activities in a week. Therefore, the old-style school PE kit or an unbranded kit in school colours may be worn.
31.	<i>The School has adopted the Boarding Schools' Association COVID-SAFE Charter. What does that mean?</i>	The BSA COVID-SAFE Charter is a voluntary code to which schools can adhere, and which aims to give confidence to everyone that the school is following all appropriate measures to ensure that boarding is a safe environment for pupils. We have adopted this Charter as it requires measures we are already carrying out to keep pupils safe. We believe it reinforces best practice amongst boarding schools.