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TONBRIDGE
SCHOOL

12 June 2020

Dear Parents,

As we plan ahead for the re-opening of the School next term, we are looking forward to supporting our overseas pupils in their safe travel and return to Tonbridge in time for the beginning of the new academic year for boarders on Wednesday 2 September.

I am pleased to be able to confirm that we will be offering arrangements for self-isolation (or quarantine) within our boarding accommodation for any boys who are otherwise unable to stay with family members or guardians within the UK.

Self-Isolation for Visitors to the UK

The current requirement for UK residents and all visitors coming into the UK is to self-isolate for 14 days, which is the time period in which coronavirus symptoms can appear. The full UK Government information and guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

Before you travel, you should provide your journey and contact details, and the address where you will self-isolate, completing the public health passenger locator form available [here](#) 48 hours before you arrive. You will need to present these details on your arrival in England. It would be helpful if you could also forward a copy of your form to Emma Day (School Administrator) at emma.day@tonbridge-school.org. Additionally, the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) has created a certificate of travel confirming the school destination for any overseas pupils travelling to the UK, which Emma Day will be able to provide as a source of additional authentication.

You are required to stay in the same place for the duration of the self-isolation period. The people you are staying with, however, do not need to self-isolate or to stay at home unless they travelled with you or develop the symptoms of coronavirus. This can include staying in your own home, with friends and family, or in a hotel or other temporary accommodation.

Importantly, the Department for Education has confirmed that boarding schools may provide such accommodation for pupils travelling to the UK.

School Support with Quarantine

To assist us in our planning, therefore, **I would be grateful if you could let Emma Day (emma.day@tonbridge-school.org) know if your son is likely to need support in accommodating him at school for the duration of the required 14-day period of self-isolation on arrival within the UK.**

We will be able to provide our usual transport arrangements from the airport. The all-inclusive cost for food and accommodation is likely to be around £40 per day, which we hope makes this a helpful option for families.

It is worth noting that the requirement for self-isolation could be removed before mid-August, subject to review by the UK Government. Please do continue to follow the latest advice via the information link shown above.

If the requirement for self-isolation remains in place into next term and it is impractical for your son to travel home in the October Half Term break, we will be happy to provide support with accommodation in the holiday period for any boys unable to stay with families or guardians here in the UK. We will be able to provide an update on this in due course.

Flights

We appreciate that families will be keen to book flights as soon as possible to enable their sons to arrive in the UK in sufficient time to allow for the quarantine period before the beginning of the Michaelmas Term on Wednesday 2 September. Quarantine arrangements may change between now and then, so you may wish to consider booking a flexible ticket if that is possible. **We will be able to provide accommodation from Monday 17 August and recommend aiming to arrive in the UK no later than Wednesday 19 August.**

Visas

If you have any Visa queries, please contact Emma Day using the email address above.

Facemasks

We are aware of concerns in the overseas community about boys feeling comfortable wearing facemasks. Please note that from Monday 15 June, everybody in the UK will have to wear a facemask on public transport and we anticipate that wearing a facemask will have been significantly normalised by September. It would be entirely acceptable for any pupil to wear a facemask if they wished to do so. Housemasters will remind boys to be supportive of anybody in the school community who chooses to wear a facemask.

Other measures

Our priority at all times will be the safety of the boys. We are busy adapting the school and how it works operationally to make it as safe as possible for everybody in the Tonbridge community, details of which we will share in due course. These are expected to include constant reminding of hand washing and the use of hand sanitizers, enhanced cleaning regimes and temperature checks. The requirements for social distancing will lead to different arrangements for dropping off and picking up boys, revised classroom arrangements and revised dining times.

If you have any further queries at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact us. I hope that this information is helpful and look forward to welcoming your sons back to Tonbridge later this summer.

With all good wishes,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A.D.', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.