



Friday 27 March

Dear Parents

I started the week by focusing on how we might, in such incredibly challenging times, retain our sense of community and togetherness as a school. There is no doubt that this has been a highly complex week for all of us, with the need to adjust fast to changes in so many different aspects of life.

In this respect thank you for all your tolerance and understanding as we all 'hunker' down for the foreseeable future. The boys have this week shown great adaptability and have adopted and responded to the new requirements. They have been open-minded in their approach while embracing all that has been put to them in the context of such unsettling and uncertain times.

One of the main strengths of The Hall is the 'relational learning' that takes place on a day to day basis, with discussion and engagement with teachers so key to the boys' progress in learning day by day. As you can imagine, I have spent a great deal of time this week working with the Senior Leadership Team in considering how such a key methodology underpinning our regular teaching and learning might be replicated in remote teaching and learning processes, since it is likely that we will all be distant from school for an extended period of time.

I am also very conscious of the incredible demands that are being placed upon us as adults in terms of our own work practices at home as we adapt to new circumstances. In a sense, parents and children all needing to adapt to remote practices from home is bound to bring its own challenges. We all need to take a broad perspective of what is important at this time generally, prioritising your son's learning experience accordingly in the mix of family wellbeing at home while minimising stress.

I will be in touch next week with an outline of how we intend to approach remote learning after the Easter holiday period and what we feel we can do to provide a broad range of interactive opportunities that are compatible and realistic in the context of the lives that we are likely to live in the immediate future. While it may be difficult at this time to focus on the positive, it has been good to hear many parents thinking about how they wish their children to remember this time. Inevitably it is a time for a slower life, the building of deeper relationships and bonds within the family, a time to explore new things and for children to create their own learning opportunities.

Senior School Development Update

This communication also presents an opportunity to update you on the current status of the Senior School Development. The decision made by the governing body recently to proceed with the project from July of this year has been rather overtaken by events. A contractor with significant experience in the education sector had emerged from the tender process a month ago as the preferred contractor and alongside the governors and the design team we have held many joint meetings to consider the challenges to be faced. I must advise that the project will not now begin in July 2020 and at this point we cannot have a specific date in mind for the commencement of the first phase. Please be reassured however that there is still a very firm commitment to the development and as ever I will keep in touch to update you on any progress.

New Teaching Staff for September 2020

In the last couple of weeks we have been continuing to plan for September and have now completed our staffing for next year. I am delighted to have appointed three staff members with previous

experience of working at The Hall, indeed one of the new appointments is an 'old boy' – you may guess who this is from below.

Luisa Rosina has been appointed as our new Director of Music. Luisa is currently Head of Woodwind and Percussion at Solihull School and teaches music across the 7-16 age range. Previously Luisa led the Concert Band at The Hall as well as teaching clarinet and saxophone and she accompanied the 2016 Music Tour to South Africa.

Philippa Hales will be joining us as a Reception teacher for the new class that commences in September 2020. Philippa is currently a Reception Teacher at New End Primary School and previously was a Teaching Assistant at The Hall.

Dominic Corbett will be covering Year 4 while Fran Mindell is on maternity leave. Dominic has trained as a primary specialist after completing his History degree.

Key Worker Child Care Provision

I am continuing to liaise with a number of schools to organise a provision restrictions permitting after the break. I will keep in touch with parents who have indicated they may wish their children be in school.

Supporting the NHS

A huge 'Thank you' to the many parents who brought food and self care items to the school over the course of this week for delivery to key workers at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospitals. All gifts were very much appreciated.

May I alert you now to a new initiative that two members of our parent body have created with Leon Restaurants. A national campaign has been launched today, to get healthy, hot meals directly to NHS staff in hospitals. Leon restaurants have led the way and now other outlets like Wasabi, Tortilla, and Franco Manca have joined. May we encourage Hall parents to go to [leon.co](https://www.leon.co), where the **FEED NHS** page will be visible for donations. We would urge you to support the campaign if at all possible to get 6,000 meals a day to the NHS critical care staff firstly in London, then across the country.

email to boys

For your information I earlier sent the following email to the boys in the Middle School and Senior School.

Dear Boys

I just wanted to be in touch as we start our holiday. A very different holiday experience from what we might have expected just weeks ago but I do hope you have a good rest and enjoy time together with your family. It was very strange this morning not to think that we would be having our traditional end of term celebrations - a small substitute is a video message from me and house reports for Orange and Blue. I hope to share with you the other reports in the days to come. <https://hallschool.co.uk/video/>

This is also an opportunity for me to say very many thanks for your great adaptability over the last week and congratulations on how you have adopted and responded to the new requirements of remote learning. You have been open-minded in your approach while embracing all that has been put to you in the context of such times.

Very best wishes for the weeks ahead and let us hope that we can be all together again soon.

Mr Godwin

As we start the holiday period, a time which should be for restoration and calmness, we are facing the opposite, a time of massive uncertainty for everyone. The boys may be feeling fearful and anxious. As adults, acknowledging our own feelings about the situation can be helpful in letting the boys know it is okay to share their own feelings. Above all, could I encourage us all to stay connected with our values. Let's not allow fear or anxiety drive our interactions with others. We are certainly all in this together.

With every good wish,

Chris Godwin