



**The Manor**  
Preparatory School

## **To All Parents**

Friday 17 April 2020

Dear Parents

### **Welcome to The Summer Term**

I hope that you are all well and I would like to start by thanking you for the many letters of support that we have received over the course of the Easter holidays. It has been a very good reminder of just what a special community we belong to.

I know that with this mailing, you will receive Welcome Letters from your individual Heads of Section but I wanted to add my welcome back to the Summer Term, which will prove to be a term that none of us could ever have envisaged and I am sure that, in time, we will look back on it as an opportunity to develop our skills, our resilience and our ability to remain connected even when physically apart.

Our primary focus, both now and moving forwards, is in providing an outstanding education for our children. Education should not only be measured in terms of academic achievement but alongside this we should focus on social development, physical development and mental wellbeing. There are so many facets to this and we appreciate that at this time there will be certain elements that our children will be missing out on, primarily from not sharing these experiences directly with their friends. We have spent a great deal of time in the last few weeks developing programmes to replicate school as far as is reasonably possible whilst realising that our remote educational experience will not be identical to being at The Manor. Alongside this determination to provide continued opportunities for our children, the Governing Board and I are also mindful that we wish to be in a position to return to a normal running of the school as soon as that opportunity presents itself. We have taken many measures already to reduce our costs, including furloughing approximately 50 members of staff and stopping all capital expenditure for the time being. We recognise fully that many are having to make significant sacrifices both financially and in terms of supporting their children's learning and we are also committed to ensuring the security of our outstanding staff.

### **Teaching and Learning**

We are very excited to be rolling out Google Meet, part of our Google Education Suite, which will provide opportunities for using live videos during lessons and form times from next week; we tried it with 50 members of staff this morning (we needed to establish ground rules at the beginning!) and it worked wonderfully well so there will be elements of this appearing in our lessons and our increased use of technology will be our new "normal" when it comes to remote teaching and pastoral care. The staff have put in an amazing effort over the break to put together a timetable and variety of activities which will mean that your children have a challenging, fulfilling and exciting week of learning. Our Deputy Heads, Mrs Evans and Mr Footring have put together a detailed letter on this week's mailing regarding Remote Learning from an academic and pastoral point of view. Should you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to direct these to your Form Teachers and to our Deputy Heads ([vevans@manorprep.org](mailto:vevans@manorprep.org) and [vfootring@manorprep.org](mailto:vfootring@manorprep.org)) or of course, to me ([head@manorprep.org](mailto:head@manorprep.org)).

## Screentime

We are acutely aware that the intensity of working at a screen remotely, does not reflect everyday life in the classroom, which is full of interaction and we are keen to help the children strike a good balance between hard work on screen, interspersed with other curriculum activities that do not involve a screen, as well as physical and creative opportunities which are so important. Physical wellbeing is directly linked to mental wellbeing and I am sure that creativity plays its part in calming the mind. There are many activities available to the children and please be guided by your child's Form Teacher and Head of Section who will show where to find them.

Please look out for the weekly mailing each Friday afternoon as usual and finally, my door is metaphorically always open; I urge you to get in touch with me to share any concerns over the next few weeks and I will also reach out to you.

We are all following the news with great interest and are hopeful that a return to school may be possible before the end of the Summer Term. We will be ready to go as soon as we are given the all clear to resume schooling on site and we will certainly be as excited as the children (and parents!).

Yours

Alastair Thomas  
Headmaster