

6th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to confirm the situation regarding boarding fees for the Spring Term 2020/21.

As you may be aware, as a state boarding school Brymore receives income in two distinct ways. We receive funding from the DfE, as do all schools, for the tuition element of the school and we also receive boarding fees from you as parents. The boarding fees are only able to be used to fund boarding and as a school, we are unable to operate this element of the budget at a loss or even as a significant surplus. Indeed, we are expected to generate an 8% return each year which effectively is used for refurbishment purposes and ongoing maintenance of buildings. There are no grants available whatsoever to improve boarding facilities. The money we have received over the past few years for the new developments, such as the new farm building and the new dining hall, was ring-fenced by the DfE for these projects alone. I believe we have always managed the boarding budget well and there has been an ongoing refurbishment of the dormitories over the past few years. However, the last lockdown meant that the school lost £500,000 of income. The present lockdown means that we will lose approximately £40,000 a week of income, if fees are not paid. Whilst boarding has always been in a strong position, I am sure you can appreciate we are unable to sustain this loss of income over a long period of time.

I am also aware that these are difficult times for parents and many of you will find your own financial circumstances challenging recently. Having met with the Chief Executive Office of Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust yesterday, we have agreed not to charge fees from January up until February half-term, as this is the earliest date that the Government have suggested students can return to school. However, the boarding costs do not stop just because the boys are not here and I have to inform you that if the lockdown continues for a longer period of time, we may have to look at asking parents to pay a percentage of the fees in the future, in order to ensure that we will be able to continue to offer boarding at Brymore in the long term.

If you have already paid the fees up until half-term then this amount will be credited to your account for when boarders return to Brymore.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding in what is clearly difficult times for all concerned.

Yours faithfully

MARK THOMAS

Headteacher