

25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Further to my letter outlining the planned re-opening of boarding on 7th March I wish to update you with the situation regarding fees.

As outlined in previous letters, Brymore has experienced a considerable loss of income with the closure of boarding. Once savings have been accounted for (due primarily to furloughing staff) this still amounts to a loss of around £23,000 a week. There continues to be significant costs to boarding, even when the boys are not present. These include utility bills, long term contracts such as catering, maintenance and health and safety testing, alongside year-round safeguarding work and planning which means that we are not able to furlough all staff. We have also continued with all planned refurbishment with the common rooms in Reid and Kemp and all of the dormitories on the top floor of Reid being completed since Christmas. These are all costs that can only be met through boarding fees.

I am also mindful of the effects that the pandemic has had on individual families and we have continued to try and support you through this difficult period. I am sure you can appreciate that the uncertainty has made financial planning a challenge however, I am pleased that the vaccination programme does appear to be offering some assurance that things will now gradually return to normal. However, I am also mindful that we thought that six months ago and clearly that was not the case.

I have spoken with the CEO of Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust this morning and it has been agreed that we will resume the charging of full fees from Sunday 7th March 2021. Boarding staff will return from furlough from Monday 1st March and so will be available to discuss any issue regarding the return of boarders with you and offer support if required.

Thank you once again for your continued support, patience and understanding throughout the past year and I hope your personal situation is able to return to some form of normality soon.

Yours faithfully

MARK THOMAS
Headteacher