



## **FAQ - RELATING TO THE RE-OPENING OF SIDCOT SCHOOL** **(International Boarders)**

### **Staying safe**

**Is the UK safe?** The South West of England is one of the least affected areas in relation to the Coronavirus. Sidcot School has a private campus and benefits from being in a rural area with a low population reducing the potential spread of the virus.

**What measures are being put into place to enable social distancing in school?** The School is following the UK Government guidelines and will put in place protocols which allow for social distancing. There will be additional signage around the School to remind everyone of our social distance policy.

**What extra hygiene measures will be put into place at Sidcot School?** The School has a supply of facemasks, gloves, hand sanitiser and enhanced cleaning routines.

**Can the students wear facemasks?** Yes they can. Many of our students chose to wear a facemask before the closure of the School.

**Will the school continue to play contact sports?** The School will be guided by the various sporting bodies.

### **Quarantine and School holidays**

**Will the school provide quarantine facilities for the international boarders travelling into the UK?** Yes, subject to BSA guidelines. We do have the provision available and are planning to have boarding facilities open at no cost to families **on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August** to allow students to have a 14 day quarantine period before the term officially starts, if this is required. However, if a boarder is not able to arrive on either of those two specific days, they will have to spend the 14 day quarantine period with a guardian, arranged by the family.

If a boarding student chooses to arrive for the start of term **on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**, we will provide quarantine facilities at school, however they will not be able to attend lessons or circulate within the school community until they have completed their 14 day quarantine period. They will be provided with work to complete on-line.

**Will the boarding house remain open at October half term?** Yes. Boarding students will be able to stay during the school holiday to give flexibility to families. This will be at an additional cost. For students starting school after the half term, we are looking at providing an additional quarantine facility to start on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. There will be an additional cost for this.

**Will the school be flexible with start dates?** Yes, subject to the prevailing quarantine and travel arrangements. We want our boarders to return when they feel confident and that it is safe to do so and for this reason, we have introduced a new Blended Boarding programme. (Please contact us for details.)

**Is the location of the Guardian important?** The guardian policy has not changed. We always recommend that Guardians live within an hour of school (up to 50 mile distance).

## Coronavirus Care

**What will happen if a boarder gets Covid 19 symptoms or has the virus?** The boarders will be isolated and looked after by a health care professional. We have a separate boarding house available to look after those boarders who display symptoms. Symptoms will be monitored and the correct level of care will be put into place. If required, a boarder will go to an NHS hospital.

**If there is a second outbreak of the virus, will boarding houses stay open?** Yes the boarding houses will remain open and the boarders will be looked after at School. We were able to accommodate boarders during the initial lockdown period.

**Will all medical expenses be covered if a boarder is ill with the virus?** Boarders are entitled to NHS care so all expenses would be covered. We would however recommend that parents do take out any supplementary private health insurance to give them peace of mind that their children are fully covered whilst at School.

## Finance

**What will happen to deposits already paid if the students can't start in September?** We understand the confusion that is currently arising from the different guidance from the UK and other Governments, however, we want to remain as flexible as we can for our boarding families. For this reason, we are offering our Blended Boarding programme until students are able to return to the school in person. A deposit will therefore only be returned if the student is not able to attend due to restrictions imposed on travel.

## Academic Support

**Can students do on-line learning for the first half of the Autumn Term?** Yes. If students are unable to travel, they can access our especially created *Blended Boarding* programme and study on-line until they arrive physically at the School. (Please contact us for full details).

## Wellbeing

**How will the school support international students around the sensitivities of Covid-19?** As a Quaker school we are constantly promoting the messages of equality, respect and tolerance amongst the whole community.

**What mental health and wellbeing support does the school provide?** Students are able to talk to any member of staff as well as our dedicated school counsellor and mentor as needed. We will continue to encourage students to speak to us about any concerns they may have. We have updated our Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy to ensure that all students are supported on their return to school.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is our current information and reflects the situation as it stands at present. We will be updating and addressing further questions over the coming weeks as things move forward.**

**29 June 2020**