

Truro School Boarding Information During Lockdown 2021

Introduction from Mr. Tom Copeland, Head of Boarding:

The rapidly unfolding events of the first ten days of January presented the Truro School Boarding Community with yet another new challenge but the positive response to this challenge was truly inspiring! I am extremely thankful to all in the Truro School boarding community which includes boarders, parents, guardians, staff and their families, the school nurses and the catering staff. I would like to offer special thanks to Mrs. Sarah Mulready, who has answered many, many phone calls and e-mails during evenings, weekends and school holidays. Sarah, like many boarders, parents and staff, has responded to each new set of circumstances with adaptability and determination, and with empathy and support for others are the very forefront of her mind.

Most of our boarders had their plans to return to school quickly changed and are now at home or with their guardians. Some returned to boarding as planned and are now safe and secure in the boarding houses. The new lockdown guidance stipulates that boarders should stay in their boarding houses during the school day for remote learning, and that they can leave their boarding house once per day for exercise within their local area.

The boarders and boarding staff have all been Covid-tested with support from the school nurses at least once since the start of term, and all results were negative.

Boarding staff remain passionate and committed to help all boarders navigate the challenges over the next few months; the pastoral support of boarders and their health and wellbeing is always a top priority. Any boarder can contact boarding staff through Microsoft Teams or on the house mobile.

Remote learning

The guidance from the Boarding Schools' Association states that boarders should receive their education in the boarding houses. Boarders join on-line live lessons from their bedrooms or the house computer rooms.

Meals in the dining room

Boarders continue to enjoy breakfast, lunch and supper in the dining room, but each house will arrive at staggered times, and eat in areas designated for each boarding house.

Exercise

Boarders must follow UK Government guidance on exercise; they may leave their boarding house once a day for exercise and must stay in their local area. This means that they can run or walk around the school playing fields or to the nearby Boscawen Park.

Going into Truro and weekend trips

Weekend trips are cancelled in order to follow guidance of staying in the local area. Boarders should only visit Truro to buy essential items such as toiletries from the nearby shops. Boarders have been asked to keep shopping trips to an absolute minimum.

Laundry

Boarders' bedding will continue to be washed once a week in the school laundry. Because there are so few boarders present, clothes will be washed in the house machines. Boarding staff will be available to help with laundry.

What happens if a boarder develops symptoms?

The boarder will start isolating in their bedroom where they will have meals delivered. They will be allocated their own bathroom. Other boarders in the house will start isolating in the boarding house and have their meals delivered to the house kitchen. The boarder with symptoms will be tested by a school nurse using a rapid antigen test. If the result is positive they will be tested again by a school nurse using a Government test, and the boarders will continue isolating. If they result is negative the boarders can stop isolating.

Pastoral care for boarders

The boarding staff remain committed to providing outstanding pastoral care in these challenging times. Boarders are encouraged to speak to someone if they are feeling anxious or experiencing mental health challenges – they are able to approach a boarding prefect or a member of boarding staff. They are still able to approach through Microsoft Teams their tutor, Head of Year, the Chaplain, or any teacher that they feel comfortable talking to. Boarding staff will focus fully on supporting the wellbeing and mental health of the boarders. They encourage the boarders to exercise when possible, to have regular breaks from their screens, and to engage fully in social activities with other boarders.

Travel for school holidays

There are many challenges associated with planning travel for the holidays, and these challenges are slightly different for each boarder. For example, the age of the boarder, the proximity of their guardian, and the varying travel restrictions all need to be considered. Parents should start conversations with Mr. Tom Copeland and Mrs. Sarah Mulready about plans for the holidays.

Summary

Truro School remains fully committed to resourcing and supporting both the wellbeing and the education of our boarding community whether they are on site or at home at this time. If you have any queries or suggestions, please do contact Mr Copeland at THC@truroschoo.com

Mr Copeland (Head of Boarding)