



11 January 2021

Dear Parents,

Our very best wishes for the New Year and thank you for your continued support during these troubled times. As this is the second enforced closure of schools and our third national lockdown, we have absolute confidence in the resilience and robustness of the Stowe Distance Learning Programme which is delivering a first-class education to all Stoics. Over the Summer Term we successfully re-imagined and re-invented how subjects can be brought to life in the digital classroom while maintaining wrap-around pastoral care through the House teams. The cancellation of exams has not come as a surprise - it is an eventuality we have planned for. Our priority is for every Stoic to achieve the best possible learning outcomes whatever the circumstances. We are very grateful for all the work you are doing behind the scenes to enforce the School timetable as it is vitally important that Stoics maintain good habits at a time of anxiety and uncertainty.

We have been told that the current lockdown and closure of schools in the UK will continue until the end of Half Term (Sunday 21 February for Boarders, Monday 22 February for Day pupils). We will maintain full teaching timetables while delivering a rich and varied programme of co-curricular activities and sport. Fifth Form and Upper Sixth Stoics have been assured that they will not be disadvantaged in any way by the cancellation of exams and we will wait to find out what is required for the compilation of teacher-assessed grades. At the moment, we are being told that iGCSE exams can still take place in June. In the meantime, we will continue to teach the GCSE and A Level curriculum while creating a system of continuous assessment which is rigorous, thorough and fair.

Following the communication on 5 January which alluded to an adjustment in respect of this term's fees, we are now able to share further information on the fees for the Lent Term 2021.

We continue to believe that it is appropriate for the same fee to be charged for Boarders and Day pupils, who will be accessing the same educational services. **The fees for this term will be reduced as follows for as long as lockdown continues:**

**Boarding: £6,300 – a reduction of 50% (from £12,697)**

**Day in Boarding: £6,300 – a reduction of 31% (from £9,128)**

**Day in Day: £6,300 – a reduction of 19% from the undiscounted fee and 10% from the introductory discounted fee (£7,738 and £6,964 respectively)**

The Government have indicated that they wish schools to return after Half Term in February. We will thus apply the reduced fee to the first half of term and the normal fee to the second half of term. We are ready to re-open at a moment's notice and recognise the very real challenges parents are facing with their children at home.

Bursaries and Scholarships will be applied proportionately to the reduced fee.

We will issue credit notes against the existing invoices for the Lent Term which were issued before Christmas. We are working on the premise that this current lockdown will end at Half Term and we will apply the appropriate credit for one half of the term to the existing invoices. If lockdown were to continue beyond the February Half Term, we will issue a further credit to the Summer Term bill, which will be issued at the end of this term.



For anyone who has already paid this term's fees, we will apply the appropriate fee reduction as a credit against the Summer Term's fees.

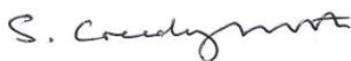
Please be assured that we remain mindful of the ongoing economic uncertainties caused by the Coronavirus pandemic and will continue to act responsibly and fairly. We are fully aware that virtual teaching and learning cannot match the experience of pupils being physically present at Stowe. We are committed to the careful and prudent management of our resources and will achieve operational savings during this period of lockdown by reducing expenditure as appropriate, saving costs of food and utilities and accessing the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Notwithstanding these actions, we will be drawing on our reserves as our anticipated fee income will not cover our fixed costs.

We hope this letter reassures you that it is our intention to continue to support parents and pupils in these challenging times. We are better prepared than we were last March and can draw on a vast reservoir of experience of delivering online teaching and learning to ensure that your children will maintain academic progress while being given appropriate levels of pastoral support. We thank all parents and guardians who are having to step up once more to take on the challenges of home learning. We will do everything possible to ensure that your children flourish. If you have any concerns about any aspect of the Stowe Distance Learning Programme, please get in touch with the appropriate Head of Department, Houseparent or member of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

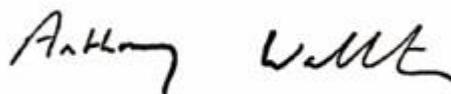
None of us wanted to be in this position again and a certain amount of ennui and lockdown fatigue will inevitably set in over the coming weeks. However, there are grounds for optimism - this will not last for ever: the vaccination programme supported by regular testing of staff and pupils will enable schools to re-open as soon as possible. Nothing seems so dead as a tree in winter, but as the snow and frost melt, snowdrops, crocuses and green shoots take a grip on life and remind us that we will soon be enjoying long sunny days at Stowe again.

Please contact our Director of Finance, Mark Greaves at [mgreaves@stowe.co.uk](mailto:mgreaves@stowe.co.uk) if you wish to discuss any aspects of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Creedy Smith  
Chair of Governors



Anthony Wallersteiner  
Head