



BURGESS HILL

— GIRLS —

Tomorrow's Women

BOARDING FAQs

ENSURING A SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

We hope that you and your families remain safe and well. Thank you to those of you who we have met over Skype and thank you for the positive responses we have received from you. The questions you have been asking have been incredibly useful in informing us of the areas you wish to receive more information.

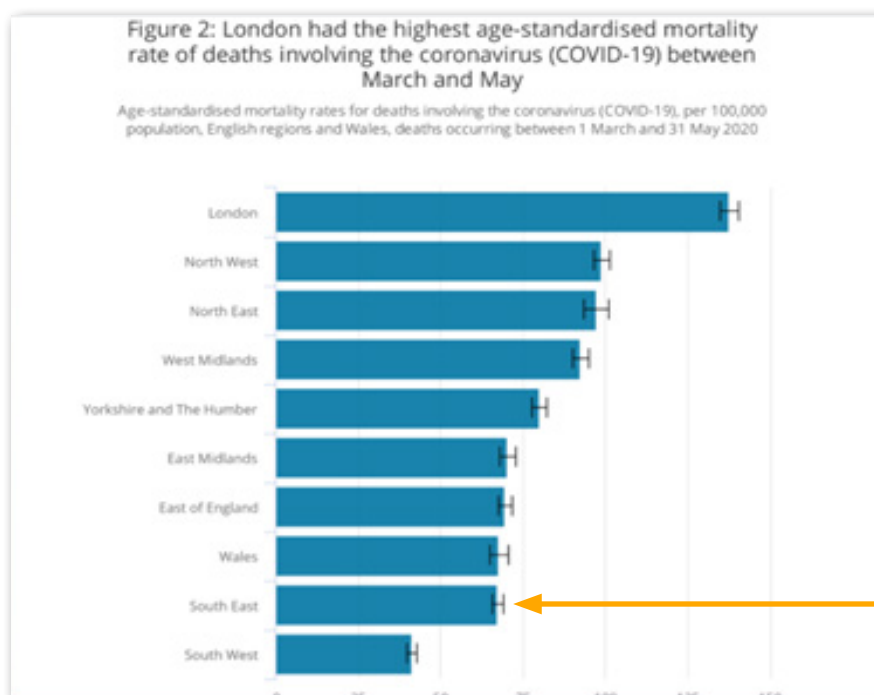
In the hope we can continue to reassure you of the improvements in the South East of England response we have compiled a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions' including the schools response. These should go some way to providing you with a degree of clarity on the plans we are making for a full return to school in September. We are hopeful that in providing this information and keeping you updated throughout the summer months you will look forward to your daughters joining or returning in August 2020.

COVID-19 UPDATE — SOUTH EAST AREA

Information taken from the Office of National Statistics.

The content here contains analysis of all deaths that occurred in England and Wales between 1 March and 31 May 2020, registered up to 6 June 2020, where the coronavirus (COVID-19) was involved, focusing on differences between local areas.

We wanted to highlight for you the COVID-19 situation in the South East.



- Figure 2 outlines the small amount of deaths we have had in the South East in comparison to other areas of the UK.

HEALTH & HYGIENE

WEARING FACE MASKS	We acknowledge in our boarding community that some girls may wish to wear face masks. The school will talk to the girls upon arrival about the use of face masks and the safe use and mechanism for their disposal
REGULAR TEMPERATURE CHECK	Students will have a temperature checks upon arrival These will be carried out by First Aid Trained House Staff. Students who show any symptoms will be isolated in a separate building and will be reported to the School Medical Officer for immediate testing
TRACK & TRACE	The track and trace programme in the UK will soon be in practice and the school will be taking part in order to help tracking and tracing within the school community
REGULAR HAND WASHING	Thorough hand washing routines will be implemented throughout the day and evening
PROVISION OF HAND SANITIZER	Hand sanitizer will be available in every building and public areas and wipes available in every classroom
CLEANING	Rigorous, deep cleaning will have taken place before arrival Rigorous cleaning of rooms and furniture will take place daily The school has a proven record of high levels of cleanliness The school's cleaning staff will be cleaning common touch points such as hand rails, light switches, door handles throughout the day

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

MINIMIZING STUDENTS IN COMMUNAL AREAS	Staggered lunch times and movement around corridor
REDUCING LARGE GATHERINGS	No whole school assemblies or large events will take place during the autumn term
BOARDING ROOMS	Whilst the girls do share rooms there will be measures in place with regards to use of bathrooms and such areas to maximize hygiene protocols
KEEPING BOARDERS AND DAY STUDENTS APART	Given the nature of a school, separating students like this is not possible or in the students best interests. Efforts will be made to keep the mixing of year groups to an absolute minimum
ISOLATION FACILITIES ON SITE	The school has two buildings (which are not part of the current boarding facilities) which will be used to isolate students who show symptoms if necessary
MINIMIZING VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL SITE	The school will be minimizing the visitors who have access to the school site
MINIMIZING TRIPS AND SPORTS	There will be a limited amount of sport and trips on offer which take place outside the school grounds and with other schools

MEDICAL FACILITIES

SCHOOL MEDICAL STAFF	<p>Highly Qualified Staff We have a qualified Nurse employed by the school Silverdale Surgery – the School Medical Officer, Dr Bird Staff who are 3 day first aid trained, in addition to boarding house staff who are OPUS and First Aid trained</p> <p>Boarding Staff Trained in “Skills for Care” COVID-19 Essential Training</p>
CENTRE FACILITIES	<p>Medical Centre is well-equipped and staff during the school day Ongoing cleaning, disinfecting and deep cleaning, in line with the government guidelines</p>
COVID-19 TESTING	<p>Testing available from our School Medical Officer NHS Testing facilities available</p>
ISOLATION FACILITIES	<p>If your daughter needed to spend time in our isolation facility then they would be fully supported by our pastoral staff</p>

FAQ'S

1. Will the school be open in September?

We are planning for the school to re-open in full in September. Circumstances may change between now and then but we will adapt our measures in order to keep the community safe, which is our main priority.

At present we are putting in place rigid cleaning measures and hygiene protocols ready for the boarding house to re-open in August.

The school has currently reopened for the Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. The school has followed strict government guidance and the measures we have put in place have worked well.

2. What scenarios are you considering?

As this is an ever-changing picture we are considering the following:

MOST LIKELY – a full return of day and international students, with the option of a 14 day quarantine period commencing on the 17th August 2020.

LIKELY – Full return of day students and an almost full return of international students, with remote teaching in place for those who cannot return to the UK OR for those students who consider returning at October half term or January 2021.

UNLIKELY BUT POSSIBLE – A mixture of classroom teaching and some remote teaching for a small minority of students if restrictions with travel are not lifted.

VERY UNLIKELY – restrictions are not lifted and remote teaching continues.

3. How will we provide a safe and healthy environment?

There are a number of measures which we will take to check the health of our students and we will base this on the best advice of the government in August. This might include:

- Temperature checks
- Use of personal protective equipment (in some areas) including face masks and clear expectations and guidelines will be issued around this to help manage cultural sensitivity.
- Hand sanitizers available
- Extensive additional cleaning
- Deep cleaning of boarding house areas regularly

4. What options are available if we do not return on the 17th August?

If you do not return on the 17th August, you could arrive later, however, you will need to find a safe and suitable space such as a guardian of a host family to spend the 14-day quarantine with. You might consider returning on the 16th October to quarantine over the October Half term.

In extreme circumstances you might wish to return in January 2021 when the picture is clearer with regards to the “R” rate in the UK.

5. What is the latest date we can arrive at school in order to quarantine in the boarding house?

The latest date for arrival in August is 21st August 2021.

6. If I do not return in August, what are the options?

If the travel restrictions are not lifted and you cannot return due to government guidelines, then you will take part in our online learning.

If you do not return for the beginning of the Autumn term, you could return in October, in time for the start of the second half of term.

In an extreme circumstance you might decide to return in January 2021, but this will need to be discussed and agreed by the school.

7. How will my daughter get from the airport?

The school will provide transportation to and from the airport once we are aware of the travel details.

8. How will the quarantine in the boarding house work?

Indications, at the moment, from the UK government are that there will be a 14-day quarantine period for arrivals into the UK. We have adopted the BSA (Boarding School's Association) COVID Safe Charter to ensure that prior to and on arrival we follow the appropriate guidelines.

Plans are in place to ensure students are well-looked after by Burgess Hill Staff and we will have a range of appropriate activities in place to keep students occupied. This is a great opportunity for us to complete an extended induction period, and ease students back into the routines of school.

9. How much will the quarantine period cost?

The quarantine period will come at an additional cost of £500 which is inclusive of the inductions

activities, catering and care for your children during this time.

10. Can we come to the school to drop our daughter off?

Parents can drop their child at school for the quarantine period however you will not have access to the boarding houses.

11. Will there still be online learning?

Yes, as per question 2. Over the lockdown period our remote learning has been of a high standard and has been very well received.

12. What will happen if there is second wave and the UK have a second lockdown?

We very much hope this will not happen but appreciate we must recognize this is possible, anywhere in the world. We would adhere at the time to government advice. In the UK, we are now starting the track and trace and that would then mean a lockdown is likely for those individuals who have been identified with someone whom they have come into contact with, the government are suggesting this will be done geographically and therefore a mass lockdown might not be implemented.

The South East as an area, as you can see from the table above, has one of the lowest rates of deaths from COVID-19 in the UK and living in a small rural town such as Burgess Hill helps with reducing this risk. Our boarding community has their “home” here and even if there was a lockdown we would put the best measure in place and if this meant locking down within boarding then we have the provision to do this.

13. Will we have a problem with the Visa?

There might well be a delay in the processing of visa's and therefore it is wise to apply sooner rather than later. If you apply online, then you can submit all documents ahead of time.

14. Will the school remain open during October half term and Christmas holidays?

The school will definitely remain open during the two-week October half term break. It is likely that we will remain open during the Christmas holidays however this has not yet been confirmed.

15. How will social distancing work?

Guidelines for social distancing will be implemented at the beginning of the term and provided to parents ahead of time. We will follow the government guidelines regarding spacing for classrooms, the dining rooms, boarding houses. We might operate staggered lunchtimes and break times, minimize the number of students in the dining rooms, operate a one-way system around school however this is an ever-changing picture and one which we will adapt and be flexible to.

16. Is testing available for COVID-19?

New testing methods should be available by September which will allow testing via the NHS for COVID-19. The track and trace system supports early testing for anyone who shows symptoms.

17. If my child become ill with COVID-19 what will happen to them?

We will arrange care for any students who becomes ill with COVID-19 in a separate building and ensure testing as soon as possible in order to isolate and protect the community from a possible outbreak swiftly

and calmly in line with the government guidance.

18. How does the school manage the day students and staff coming in and out of the school site?

The strict hygiene protocols are the same across the school, hand sanitizing between rooms and building, upon arrival and exit. Regular reminders to be alert to the virus and good hand washing practice at all times. Any students or staff member who shows symptoms will be instructed to stay at home to protect the community.

19. Will there be a reduced fee in September if we cannot return?

If online learning has to continue then there will be a reduction in the fees for the autumn term.

20. How will you manage the boarder's movements in and out of school?

The movements of boarders will be limited in line with government guidance. We will be balancing the protection of the community whilst allowing our students a degree of freedom and independence.

21. How will bathroom facilities be managed?

Boarding students will be allocated a bathroom areas and will not be sharing facilities across the house. Strict hygiene and cleaning in these areas will be taking place regularly.

22. Can the girls cook in the house?

At present the girls will not be allowed to cook in the houses due to the sharing of equipment but we will be doing some activities with them that we can ensure high levels of cleanliness and hygiene is in place. This will be reviewed, ongoing, in line with government guidance.

At Burgess Hill Girls, our community is in this together and each individual must do their part during this global pandemic. We understand the trust that families put into us as a school and we are devoted to ensuring the students health and wellbeing of all as our priority.

The information in this document is the most current as of 23rd June 2020 and is reflective of an ongoing and ever changing situation. We will be updating you again and we will keep in regular contact with you over the summer as things will most likely change.