



Ellesmere

A 7-18 Co-educational School

From the Custos,
Mr C E Lillis

9 April 2020

Dear Parents,

Ellesmere College summer term fees

I hope that you are all keeping well and bearing up in these remarkably challenging times.

Now that the extent of government support for businesses is clear I am writing to confirm the level of fees and our teaching and learning provision for next term. I want to reassure you that governors are working closely with the Headmaster and his senior management team to ensure that we maintain the highest level of education and care for your children.

Teaching and learning

The College will be open for children of essential workers, children with education and health care plans and for any boarders who have not been able to travel home.

I know that the teaching staff have worked very hard to ensure that education can continue in these difficult circumstances. A very good digital and online education provision at the end of last term will be further improved over the Easter holiday as staff continue to develop innovative approaches to teaching and learning. We will seek feedback from parents and students as the term progresses.

By way of a very brief summary (I know you have already received much more detailed information from Mrs Pritt-Roberts).

- Video lessons and resources were uploaded to the Frog VLE platform before term ended; many students are at home in the virtual world
- Additional digital resources will provide a richer menu of work suited to the online experience
- Full support for our university candidates will be provided throughout the summer, supplemented by master classes online

As the Headmaster has already written, exam candidates in Years 11 and 13 will continue to receive our full support. I echo the Headmaster's comment that it is important for students to treat this time as *business as usual* for their education if they are not to be at a severe disadvantage when they return to academic study after six months in September.

Costs

Before addressing fees I want to assure you that we have put plans in place to minimise expenditure wherever possible and will take advantage of furloughing staff wherever this will not impact on our services: virtually all of our teaching staff will be needed next term to continue to deliver our education, and the reality is that most of our overheads arise from the fixed costs of maintaining the school and its essential staff.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

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Fees for next term and 2020/2021

I know that uppermost in your minds will be the question of fees.

For parents whose children are in school we will be issuing their normal fees invoice.

For the parents of children who are not able to access the College as a result of government instruction, we have taken the decision to offer a pro rata reduction by fee category which will apply while the government school closure continues. If the government instructions change and students are able to return to the College, from that point usual fees will apply and a revised account will be issued to reflect the resumption of normal access for our students.

All adjustments will be made to the fees normally charged to parents and, therefore, the fee payable in each case will be reduced by the percentage figures below for the time that pupils are prohibited from attending school:

Full boarding pupils: 30% Weekly boarding pupils: 20% Day pupils: 10%

We have also made the decision not to increase our fees for the next academic year beginning in September 2020.

To confirm your acceptance of this offer of a reduction in fees kindly respond to the following email address, with your child's full name and year group: discretionaryfee@ellesmere.com. This is an automated email address solely for the collection of this information. Please do this within the next seven days (by close of business on Thursday 16 April 2020) and we will then make the necessary adjustment to your account.

I understand from the Headmaster that several parents have asked not to wait for this letter but to pay their fees immediately: this is a very kind gesture that is much appreciated. Those parents will, of course, be entitled to the arrangements outlined above and the Headmaster will write separately on this subject.

Our support to you

We realise that even with this level of fee reduction some of you will be facing particularly difficult times. It may be a matter of allowing you time to pay because of temporary disruption to family income; for those of you that face longer-term challenges our means tested bursary programme may be the way forward. If there are matters that you would like to discuss please contact our Director of Finance Mr Nick Haworth via financesecretary@ellesmere.com as soon as possible.

In conclusion, the governors are concerned to ensure the future viability of the school while also recognising the considerable difficulties parents are facing. Ellesmere is not a well-endowed school and in adjusting the fees as outlined above we will undoubtedly finish the year significantly in deficit. Nonetheless we feel that our decision is the correct one in these extremely difficult circumstances.

I hope that you and your families all stay safe and well and that we will soon be through these troubling times.

Yours sincerely

