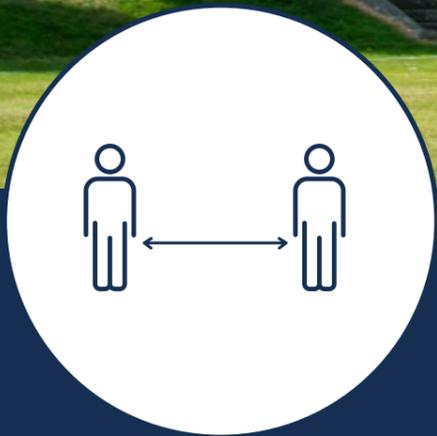


# Reading School



At a Glance  
September 2020



# Reading School

## At a Glance September 2020

### Key Covid-19 Changes to Boarding at a Glance

#### Induction

There are new challenges to face and as a result we have made some changes to the dynamics of boarding life. For that reason, our induction process is more relevant than ever: we will induct all boarders, on return in September, to ensure a shared understanding of these changes and new routines. We need to work collaboratively, and it is important that boarders understand the importance of personal and social responsibility.

Expectations regarding tidiness and behaviour have always been a priority in boarding, this academic year however, these expectations will be reinforced as they are critical to the maintenance of a safe environment. We will create a summary of the changes for boarders and their families to read before the start of the academic year.

The main part of the induction will take place over the first week but boarders and families should have a clear idea of the boarding routines prior to Sunday 6 September.

All boarding staff will also have a thorough COVID-19 induction in light of changes made to policies and practices.

#### Boarding Households

We are keen to provide a safe environment for our boarders, whilst retaining what makes boarding special; our sense of family and community. It is necessary to divide the Houses up into smaller groups (referred to as Households in DfE documentation) in order to minimise contacts within the groups. Close contact is defined by the government's test and trace system as being face to face within 1 metre of others, spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of someone, or being inside a vehicle with someone- even on a short journey.

As a result East Wing and South House will each be split as follows:

- Each boarding house can only be accessed by pupils and staff from that house.
- Each house will be split in to 3 sub-groups- Juniors (7-9), Colts (10-11) and Seniors (12-13).
- Each sub-group will further split into a Household for each individual year group

These Households will either have allocated facilities for their exclusive use or have separate times for accessing any shared facilities, with cleaning taking place between each usage.

The Households will be sitting together at mealtimes.

The Households above can still mix in activities that allow for sensible precautions that avoid close contact.

Boarding Staff working across households will adhere to appropriate distancing measures and limit/avoid any close contact with groups of boarders.

#### Hygiene and Cleaning

Personal hygiene will take on even greater focus upon the start of the new school year. All boarders will need to carry a personal supply of sanitiser. In addition to this, sanitiser has been installed in many key areas of the house (for example outside kitchens and bathrooms). There will be clear and obvious signage and instructions to either wash hands or use sanitiser. The behaviour of boarders, in this regard, is fundamental to their safety and to our Boarding Houses being Covid-secure.

The regularity of cleaning in the houses will be increased, particularly for bathrooms and shared social spaces. A cleaning protocol will be in place to ensure that kitchens and social spaces will be suitably cleaned before a new group enters.

Shared spaces will be decluttered to remove frequent touch items from circulation. For example, a list of available DVD's to watch will be available and students can request one to watch, rather than them all being in the common room.



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#### Routines

In order to keep the Households within each boarding house separate and to take in to account the changes to the school day, it is necessary to alter some of the usual boarding routines. Broadly this will include:

- Staggered mealtimes (for example, separate sittings at breakfast for the younger and older households)
- Reduced access to the boarding house during the school day to allow for cleaning teams to safely operate
- Staff supervision of contributions to Asynchronous Afternoons to encourage participation
- A more rigorous room tidying protocol to allow for effective cleaning of surfaces within bedrooms
- Rotas for shower times in the morning and evening to give each household a slot to use

#### Risk Assessment and Covid-19 Security

- If a boarder displays symptoms they must inform the duty member of staff.
- Boarder informed to keep 2 metres apart from anyone they pass and not to touch anything.
- After 3.30pm any Boarder with suspected symptoms to initially self-isolate in own room or in isolation room
- Staff member on duty arrange for boarder to be picked up and for supervision of boarder until then.
- Symptomatic boarder to self-isolate at home for 10 days, and take a Coronavirus test.

We will continue to follow the advice and guidance of the Boarding Schools' Association, PHE and the Government along with the support of our Compliance Officer. It is crucial that we all work together to comply with government guidance and the measures put in place for the benefit of the Boarding community and the wider Reading School family.

#### Personal and Social Responsibility

All boarders and staff need to take responsibility, to ensure boarding is a safe and happy place.

We must all model our core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership and Community.

We must all demonstrate respect for hygiene, routines and conduct in Boarding, to ensure that all who live and work here are respected and cared for. Boarders need to demonstrate respect for others, i.e. proper and due respect to all boarding staff, members of your group, Boarding House and school community.

Boarders need to demonstrate respect for the boarding community and environment, caring for property, equipment and furniture and for the property of others.

As members of the boarding family we must all work together in partnership to ensure safety and sustainability.

Parents are requested to ensure that their son is aware of the need to act in a way that enhances the boarding community. The crucial role of parents and carers in supporting the rules, procedures and routines in Boarding and the Day School, enhances a culture that seeks to keep all members of our school community safe.

We have adopted the BSA Covid-Safe Charter which emphasises the importance of developing a culture of shared responsibility and community.

