



## THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN ENGLAND

Dear Parents,

There has been both positive news of the first Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine being administered today in the UK and then the inevitable news that, based on rising infections, England is moving into a national lockdown. England has also been placed in the highest level 5 alert as our health services face the risk of being overwhelmed. This lockdown was announced this evening by the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, in a national televised address.

### **What does this mean for TASIS England?**

1. Our Lower School will not open on campus as planned and will now move to a virtual reopening as soon as possible. Families will need to collect devices from the school and Ms Faasee will communicate how we will achieve this as safely as possible tomorrow.
2. There will be no staggered start on campus for our Middle and Upper School students as previously planned for January 11th and 18th.
3. All students will be learning online through our Hybrid Learning Program and this is projected to be the case through to mid-February 2021. Online classes will start for Middle and Upper School students in line with the regular school schedule on Wednesday January 6th. More information will be forthcoming from the various Heads of Section in our Lower, Middle and Upper School.
4. Boarding houses remain open and we will do all we can to provide a safe, stimulating and comfortable learning environment for our boarding students and staff.
5. Our COVID-19 Lateral Flow Rapid Testing Program (which was successfully piloted today), will continue to be available to boarding staff, boarding students and our team of essential staff who are required on campus.

### **School operations during our transition to online learning**

During this period that we engage with online learning, we intend to:

1. Ensure continuity of learning and pastoral care for your child;
2. Provide a home away from home for those boarding students who remain with us throughout this period;
3. Ensure our school campus remains clean, safe and well maintained with all our mitigations in place for those who remain on campus;
4. Complete our new Vicarage Mews 30 bed Boarding House; and
5. Support all of our students, families, faculty and staff as we all navigate our way through this lockdown and await a safe return to our campus.

Thank you all for your continued support for my colleagues and for our entire compassionate, connected and resilient TASIS England community. I continue to be very proud to play my part in our journey together.

Best wishes,  
Bryan

