

24 September 2020

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to start by thanking you all for your support over the last week. As we come into the cold/flu season, coupled with the fact that lots of young people are coming together for the first time for many months, some of our students presented cold/cough symptoms. As you would expect, we are taking a very proactive and cautious approach and so we enacted our plans to deal with a potential COVID case within boarding. All the test results have returned negative but whilst waiting for those results, we had to enforce the lockdown of Coombe House for two days.

The students were fantastic throughout and dealt with the challenges of being isolated within the boarding house with resilience and maturity. We tried to maintain the usual routines of school, running a timetable that included an hour each of English, Maths and Science, a range of other subjects and an education film.

On Public Health advice, Macmillan did not have to lockdown after some boarders developed cold-like symptoms whilst at home last weekend, however in the interim whilst I was seeking the guidance I was very impressed with the attitude of boarders.

There are always lessons to learn and the House Parents and I will be running a student voice session to get their feedback about how we can improve the experience. There will inevitably continue to be potential cases moving forwards and we will continue to seek and follow the expert guidance to ensure that we react safely and proportionately on a case by case basis. The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. It is worth noting that all the test results we have had back so far, both from boarding and day students, have been negative.

Exeat

This weekend is our first exeat weekend and I hope that students use the time to celebrate a successful return to school. Boarders that require support with booking train tickets and transport to stations have been informed about how to arrange this through Sam Brownlow in Reception.

I would ask that all our boarders and their families/guardians maintain their vigilance and follow the most up to date government guidance about social distancing.



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Wifi

The school has a wifi network that is accessible to students. It is encrypted for security and so students will need to install the certificate to enable it to work. If boarders have any wifi related issues please ask them to talk to their House Parents in the first instance and then to Dave Hill in the IT technician team.

School Resources Shop

As part of our risk assessment and measures to manage Covid, we are moving to a cashless system for boarding students to purchase stationery items from Resources. Students will not currently be able to visit Resources themselves to buy stationery, but they may order items through the boarding house. House staff will provide students with a price list and the students can then order what they need via an order form available in their boarding house. Stationery items will be billed to parents on a termly basis in the same way as other expenses such as trips. Any parents that are unhappy with items being added to the bill should notify their house team by Monday 28th September (contact details are on last week's bulletin, and a reminder copied below). Additionally, if parents wish to place a cap on the amount their child can spend in Resources then they should also communicate this via e-mail to resources@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk. The price list is enclosed for your information.

Coombe	coombehouse@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk	01749 814126	07525 595934
Macmillan	macmillanhouse@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk	01749 814138	07738 678025

House staff do not work during the school day and if you need to speak to someone during those hours please ring the school reception on 01749 813393 or email enquires@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk

Thank you for reading!



Resources Shop Price List

Biro (any colour)	15p
Handwriting pen	30p
Erasable pen (black, blue or red)	£1.30
Refill	£1.00
Highlighter	Mini 25p/ Standard 35p/ 4pack £1.35
4 colour pen75p
Pencil5p
12 pack colouring pencils	£1.45
Ruler	15cm 10p/ 30cm 20p/ Folding 30cm 55p
Clear pencil case	Regular 70pLarge 80p
Sharpener	10p
Rubber	10p
Protractor	180 - 10p360 - 30p
Compass25p
Glue stick55p
Plastic book cover A4/A4+35p
Flash cards	Sm 80p/Med £1.00/Lrg £1.30/ Coloured £1.15
Calculator	£10.00

PAPER

Lined pad.....	75p
Lined x 1 sheet	1p
Jotter/notebook	20p
A4 white x 1 sheet	1p
A4 Colour x 1	2p
A3 white x 1	2p
A3 colour x 1	4p

CARD

A4 White.....	3p
A4 colour.....	3p
A4 Black	5p
A3 White	6p
A3 Colour.....	10p

FOLDERS/FILES

Lever Arch	£1.40
Ring binder	70p
Project File	15p
Box File	£1.80
Dividers pack of 5	25p
Dividers pack of 10	40p
Cardboard document wallet	10p
Poly pocket	2p
Plastic popper folder	50p