

18 February 2021

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Half term is here. For most this means a well-earned break away from our computer screens. For the handful of boarders from critical worker families it means a return home. Whatever your circumstances please do take the time to come together as a family and recognise the challenges you have overcome, be that technical, organisational, or personal, and the resilience that you have shown. Breaks in routine are always tough, but these times do give so many opportunities to use and develop our core values. The patience you have shown each other when competing for space or wifi bandwidth. The kindness you have shown your teaching staff as they learn and improve at delivering online lessons. The respect you have shown our whole community by adhering to the lockdown restrictions despite young people being amongst the lowest at risk of serious illness.

We have had a strange half term, and whilst it has been fun working with the House Parents to ensure the small boarder group here in school get a healthy, active and enjoyable experience, it is not the same without the rest of our community here. I very much look forward to you all returning at some point.

I hope that you have read the ClassCharts Announcements that House Parents have been sending out to keep in touch. We have also launched the boarding Twitter account [@SexeysBoarding](https://twitter.com/SexeysBoarding) where we will be sharing activities, celebrating successes and sending helpful reminders. Please do remember that we are still here if you need some support, or even just a chat. Just send an email and we can arrange a video or voice call.

Stay safe and I hope to see you all back soon.  
Haydn Kershaw

Welcome to our new Nurse and Health Centre Manager – Mora Sandiford

I am sure you join me in offering a warm welcome to Mora Sandiford to the Health Centre team. She started in January and so has been working on setting up and running the weekly testing. As a registered Nurse, Mora adds significant skills and experience to the Health Centre team. She has introduced herself below and I know is looking forward to meeting all the boarders when we are able to reopen.

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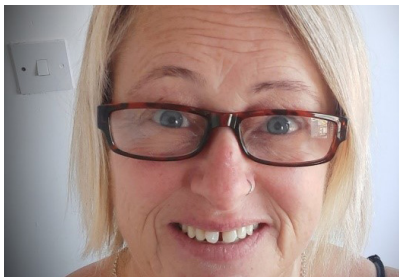
*I was born and grew up in Glasgow and trained to become a Registered General Nurse at the Victoria Infirmary. After several years working in the NHS in Scotland, I became a pharmaceutical sales rep before returning to nursing whilst raising a family. I was working in the family and care sectors and after a short contract at a Services school in Germany discovered how much I loved working with young people and young adults. I have been a School Nurse in a boarding school ever since.*



*My husband was in the Army so we have moved around, living in UK, Germany, Canada and Zimbabwe until we settled here in the South West of England about five years ago. We have three grown up children (20-26) who also attended boarding school so I understand many of the challenges and issues that pupils and parents can face.*

*My hobbies include dog walking, holidaying in Scotland and skiing. I have enjoyed my first couple of months at Sexey's and I am really looking forward to meeting more of the pupils and staff when we return to on site schooling. When we meet, why not ask me about Scotland Rugby and living in Africa.*

### Zara Coulson – Independent Listener



Zara Coulson, our independent listener visited the Critical Worker boarding group on the 29th January 2021 to continue to get to know the boarders and for them to be able to put a face (and personality) to the name on the posters. Zara is an expert youth worker and brings a wealth of experience to the role. The role of the independent listener is to provide another route for boarders to access support and guidance.

There are times when young people may want to speak to someone that is not directly linked to their daily lives, and this distance can allow them to explore ideas or thoughts that may be easy to say (or text) to someone that is independent of the boarding house. The conversations are private, but of course any safeguarding concerns are passed on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead so that they can ensure appropriate support is put in place. The overall nature of the visit was for her to get to know the boarders, and for them to know themselves, using small challenge tasks.

The boarders were split into two groups and competed in an in-house version of Crystal Maze style challenges where each member of the team had to complete a task with the support of the others. The tasks had themes such as patience, balance and coordination. They ended with an educational quiz that introduced and reinforced facts about alcohol and smoking. We look forward to welcoming Zara back next month where hopefully she can get to meet a wider group of boarders.

## Lockdown Activity Program

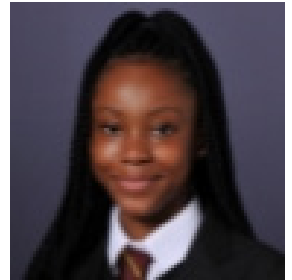
Despite the challenges of lockdown, we have tried to ensure that the boarding group have still had a range of activities and experiences across the week, including replacements for the school extracurricular program. The program has been adapted after regular student voice sessions and also included helping the KDR make pizzas for the evening meal and celebrating the Polish version of Pancake Day, Tłusty Czwartek or Fat Thursday, where people eat lots of unhealthy foods, particularly donuts, before giving them up for Lent.

Monday	4.00 – 5.00	Swimming (optional)	<b>Mrs Parham</b>
	6.00 – 7.00	Prep	
	7.00 – 8.00	Baking / Cooking (optional)	<b>LT/HB</b>
Tuesday	4.00 – 5.00	Ultimate Frisbee / Basketball	<b>JM/MD</b>
	4.00 – 5.00	KS3 Faith Group	<b>Mrs Hester</b>
	6.00 – 7.00	Prep	
	7.00 – 8.00	Free time	
Wednesday	4.00 – 5.00	Dodgeball / Netball	<b>JM/JR</b>
	6.00 – 7.00	Prep	
	7.00 – 8.00	Film Night (optional)	<b>JR</b>
Thursday	4.00 – 5.00	PSHE Lesson	<b>MD</b>
	5.00 – 6:30	Upper school "Come Dine with me".	
	6.00 – 7.00	Prep	
	7.00 – 8.00	Spotlight / Extreme Hip Hop	<b>LT/MD</b>
Friday	4.00 – 5.00	Challenge Myself Run/Pacing (optional)	
	6.00 – 7.00	Prep	
	7.00 – 8.00	Sports Hall Games (optional)	<b>HB</b>
	7.00 – 8.00	Wii Competition (optional)	<b>LT</b>
Weekend	Timings and options will be planned by House Parents to ensure that there is a range of opportunities. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport hall activities (dodgeball, badminton, Netball, Basketball)</li> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Nature Walk – a stroll around the countryside around Bruton.</li> <li>• Taste of Home – boarders prepare examples of food from home</li> <li>• In house competitions (pool, Wii, Uno, table tennis etc)</li> <li>• Evening activity such as a Quiz, Bingo etc</li> </ul>		

## PSHE Sessions this Half term: Hear from our Boarders

### 14th January - Racism Across Cultures

Daniella (Year 9) – “We looked at Indirect racism in different societies, and then discussed what small behaviours could be indirect racism in our day to day lives.”



### 21st January - Gender Equality Across Time

Rosalie (Year 11) – “We looked at how we should be respectful of anyone, regardless of how they identify their gender. We looked at how the role of women in the world has changed but can still be improved to give better gender equality. The girls were asked about their experiences of gender equality and the range and number of examples was surprising. We also talked about how young men can change their behaviour to ensure equality and the wider impact of some of the behaviour of young men.”



### 28th January - Holocaust Memorial Day

DeShawn (Year 10) – “We learnt that the holocaust involved so many other groups other than Jews, such as Romany, black people. Basically, anyone that did not fit the Aryan persona promoted by the Nazi Government.”



### 1st February - Children's Mental Health Week

Savina (Year 9) – “We produced a powerpoint to remind everyone how to take care of yourself during these difficult times. We shared some ideas like: make sure people around you are ok, talk to people as it really helps and it doesn't hurt to take a minute off screens if you need it.”

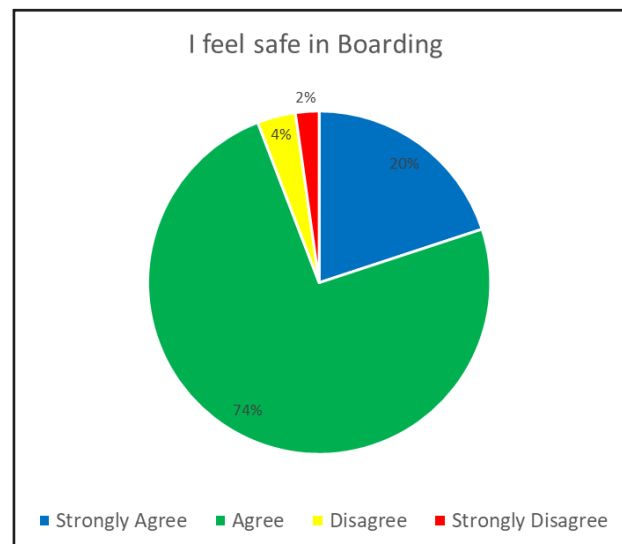
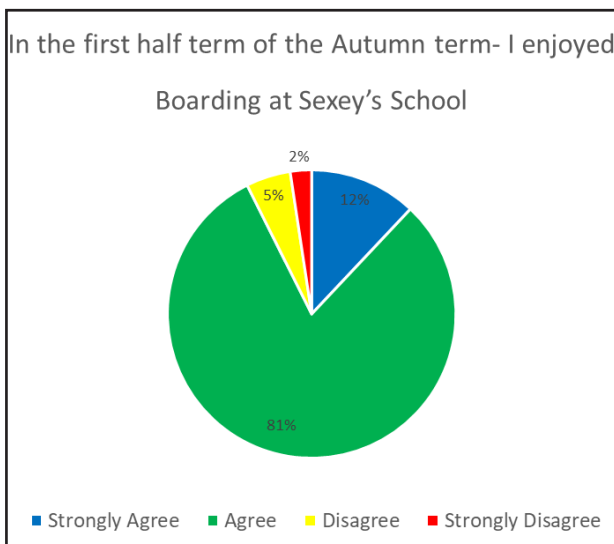


## Student Voice Update

### Autumn student survey

The results of the student survey that looked at the Autumn term were really positive, especially considering the nature of the world around us and the restrictions upon society at the moment.

93% of boarders said they enjoyed boarding in the first half term. After the Autumn lockdown where boarders were restricted to the Houses this dropped slightly but only to 87% which is a testament to staff and students alike at ensuring that the Boarding Houses maintained their vibrancy and sense of community even when we could not offer the richness of experience we had planned. 94% feel safe in boarding and 84% feel that we have managed the balance between COVID restrictions and keeping the sense of 'home' in the Boarding House (not a mean feat!). 89% of boarders believe that boarding staff can help them with any concerns, with others saying that they use the school pastoral team or family members for help when they need it. 90% felt that communication was good in the house, which is particularly impressive given the uncertainty and changes to the national restriction guidance that we have had to adapt to at short notice.

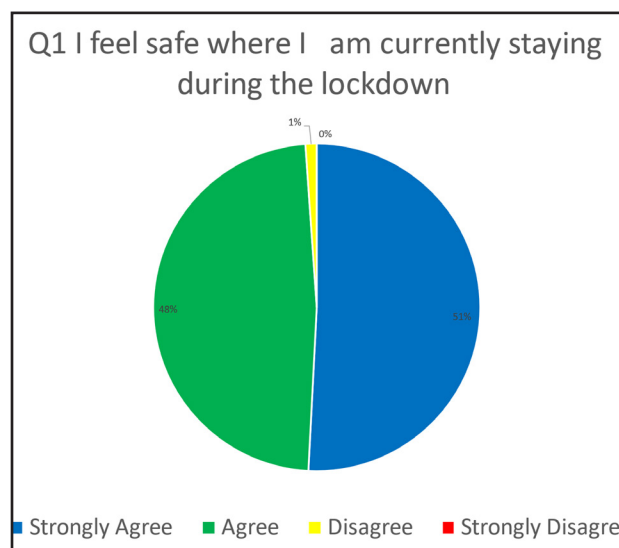


## Spring Term

For the Spring Term student voice had two clear strands, with the boarders at home completing a short survey and House Parents making a selection of phone calls, and the small group here at Sexey's having student voice opportunities to evolve the activities program and food forum.

## Lockdown student survey

I did a check in survey for boarders at home. 99% of boarders said they felt safe where they were staying during lockdown. 94% of boarders said they are able to access the remote learning successfully. 73% said that someone from of the boarding team had been in contact with them (via email, phone or ClassCharts announcement). On the back of these results we have increased the frequency of messages going home to boarders so that everyone felt that we were still here to support them and keep our strong relationship in place ready for when school reopens.



## Food forum (in school boarders)

Rachel Chilcott, KDR Manager, held a food forum with the lockdown group to ensure that the meal options best match the preferences of the boarding in House at the moment. We hold these at least every half term and so returning boarders will be able to share their thoughts on how we ensure the food is the best range and quality we can.

**Lockdown Food forum - 4th February 2021:** Held by Rachel Chilcott and 25 boarders

Points discussed	Actions
Students were happy with ketchup and mayo at meals, they would like BBQ sauce and chilli sauce to be added and mint sauce for roast dinner.	Rachel will make this available at meals.
Homemade soups requested at weekends with hot baguettes.	Rachel will ask the chefs to make at weekends.
Some students like spicy rice some like it mild.	We will alternate spicy rice and mild rice at meals.
Samosas requested more often with curry and mango chutney is liked.	Rachel will ensure samosas and mango chutney is available with curries.
Breaded chicken and BBQ chicken is liked Lasagne liked.	Rachel will continue with this when doing a new menu.
Would like salmon.	Rachel will add some salmon to the menu after half term.
Banoffee pie requested for dessert.	Rachel will make this available for dessert.
Hot and spicy chicken wings requested.	Rachel will add them to the new menu after Easter.
Mini cheeses and crackers requested for supper in house.	Rachel will order for the weekend after February half term.
Pork ribs and special fried rice requested.	Rachel will add this to the new menu.
More creamy pasta available not always red.	Rachel will ensure the chefs rotate this option.
Bacon to be added to burgers.	Rachel has added this on 8th February and will continue. Rachel will add this week as it's on the menu.
Bacon to be added to the macaroni cheese.	
Jacked potato fillings requested: Cheese and bacon, chilli, tuna mayo and chicken mayo.	When jackets are served chefs will make these filling available.
Bueno ice creams are loved can we have them again.	Unfortunately, they have been discontinued. Rachel will look into ordering something similar.
Sauté potatoes instead of chips sometimes.	Rachel has ordered sauté and will be on the menu this week as a change to chips.
Student asked if the salad bar will be back after Easter.	Rachel will look into this.
Vegetarian and vegan meals discussed with students.	All things on the menu are liked at the moment. A 'special dietary requirements' food forum will be arranged when boarding reopens fully so that the opinions of all of this group can be voiced

Thank you once again for reading! I hope you enjoy the rest of your half term break.