



CARGILFIELD

18th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I trust that you and all your families are as safe and as well as possible. The Board of Governors is very grateful to you for your help and understanding while the school grounds have been effectively closed through this lockdown period.

The Headmaster and the staff at Cargilfield continually strive to provide the best education for your children through remote learning. While it can never replace the experience of walking through the school door, we hope both you and your children have been able to find some compensation in spending this unexpected time together as families. It is our intention to have all children in school for the Autumn Term, as we hopefully, slowly return to our normal Cargilfield routines. The Headmaster will continue to update you, within Government guidelines, on the practicalities of the return.

Meanwhile, I would like to update you on fees as we, and all involved at Cargilfield, work through the ongoing consequences of COVID-19.

I am pleased to confirm that there will be no increase on last year's fees for the forthcoming academic year. As we did for the Summer Term, we will continually review the fee structure, looking to lessen the load for you, as we recognise many families will be experiencing extremely worrying financial uncertainty. Equally I would like to thank those parents who did not take a fee discount for the Summer Term and in so doing contributed to our bursary and hardship funding. We will also continue to offer the opportunity to spread termly fees over eight instalments rather than four. Please contact the Bursar if this is something that you would like to discuss.

As I have said from the outset of this crisis, we actively examine in detail the cost base and all possible sources of support. It is challenging given that we are not-for-profit, with most of our costs essentially fixed and the largest part being the livelihoods of our staff. Our aim is to be here for you this term, and for many years beyond. If the outlook for the Cargilfield day changes again and restrictions are renewed, we will, again, look at the base fee.

Your support over the last term has been fantastic and, overall, the school remains in a strong financial position. This enables the Headmaster and the entire staff to do the very best they can for your children.

As you know, we welcome feedback and want any Cargilfield family who might need extra help or flexibility to get through this unprecedented time to know that they can approach the Governors in confidence – or the Headmaster and Bursar.

Fees

For the forthcoming term we have calculated fees as follows;

- the Upper School fee will be £5,540 per term
- the Pre-prep fee will be £3,527 per term
- and the Nursery fee will be £3,527 per term (for five full days)

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Cargilfield is soon approaching its 150th anniversary and I am sure that we all want to ensure that this milestone will not just be reached but the School will continue for many years. Considering recent events most parents have not been thinking about looking at schools nor have they been able to visit us in person. The Headmaster would be delighted to talk to your friends and colleagues about the opportunities that a Cargilfield education would provide for their children.

At all times, now more so than ever, effective governance is a priority. We have recently welcomed Brian Thomson, a current parent, to the Board while Roy Leckie has stood down and we thank him for his contribution to the Board. As Governors we talked to most parents during the Easter holidays, and we hugely valued the feedback and interaction those calls provided. Please do not hesitate to approach us at any time.

We continue to be very grateful for the unstinting efforts of the Senior Management Team under the guidance of Headmaster, Rob Taylor, who leads a dedicated and committed staff body, at this most challenging of times. Despite recent events, Cargilfield is one of the best schools of its kind in the United Kingdom and can prepare your children for senior schools wherever you may choose that to be.

We thank you for your support and send our very best wishes to you and your extended families. We look forward to welcoming you back to Cargilfield next term as we focus on providing a safe, caring and supportive environment.

Take care.

David Nisbet
Chairman, Board of Governors

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