



# CARGILFIELD

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents,

The last twelve months have been like no other, but we have all adapted and continued to try and deliver all that you and your children expect from Cargilfield. After the shock of our first lockdown and the rapid creation of online schooling, we spent last summer making the school and grounds COVID-safe in hopeful anticipation of welcoming everyone back on site.

We were so pleased to see the buildings busy again in September with learning, sports and music and so grateful for the way that you, the parents and your children, managed a new routine of phased drop-offs and early pick-ups and constant COVID vigilance. The Spring term saw lockdown once more, but we were able to push back over Easter with an activity camp and an early start to the Summer term. Blessed by dry weather, these most recent months have seen new progress. More time outside with a return to matches, the pilot of our new outdoor pursuits programme and, as I write, a staggered – but triumphantly still happening – Pentland Round.

Once again, we haven't been able to enjoy our usual end-of-year round of welcoming you to Sports Days, concerts, the Summer Fair and Prize Giving. We have, however, been able to give our Form 8s a send-off to mark the culmination of their time at prep school. After a great showing in Common Entrance, our leavers have enjoyed a June of drama, DT and even camping delights in the Lake District. We wish all the children moving on from Cargilfield this year the very best for their future, and really hope they will keep in touch and come and visit in the years ahead.

As Chair of the Governors, I want as much as anything to thank the Headmaster, his wife Sarah, the senior team and every one of the staff at Cargilfield for their efforts. We all know from our own lives how turbulent this period has been, as we have sought to combine work and family in an entirely new way and against, for many, some times of real difficulty and personal sorrow. Responsibility for other people's children is a special thing. I hope you will agree that the Cargilfield staff continue to live up to that challenge. The working environment and the intermittent physical distance have been far from what they would want, but they have worked so hard to provide the best education and the best care, they can.

We can't know exactly what the next academic year will bring, but Cargilfield will be ready to do its best. When we, as Governors, discuss the future with Rob Taylor and the staff, we don't now think about a "return to normal", we think about moving to the future and how the school can adapt and continue to thrive. Remote learning has taught us all lessons and accelerated some skills and developments. We can take a fresh look at the structure of the school day, at what we teach and the way we integrate academics and activities. There's not going to be a revolution, the heart of Cargilfield is strong, but with our excellent people and with your support, we'll continue to evolve.

We are fortunate that this evolution can occur against the background of our sound financial position. This has been tested, as it has everywhere, by the challenges of COVID. Despite the persistent efforts of the Bursar on appropriate cost reduction, we will make a loss this year. However, the Board took the positive decision to bite into reserves to sustain the model and look after our staff, rather than risk destructive cuts. As we look into the next couple of years, external pressures on the cost base will continue. Most clearly these come from the decision to abolish rates relief for independent schools and to substantially increase the mandatory payments into the teachers' pension scheme.

CARGILFIELD SCHOOL

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Cargilfield is an Educational Charity No. SC005757 Company Registration No. SC025080



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## **Cargilfield at 150 – and beyond!**

We are very excited that the school will soon reach its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are working hard to ensure that as many old Cargundians as possible are aware of this milestone and hope to welcome all to a variety of activities in 2023. Please do encourage any that you know to get in contact or register on the website. In a similar vein, recent events have made it hard for potential new parents to visit the school – or even think about new opportunities for their children. The Headmaster would be delighted to meet any friends or colleagues you may have who might be interested in learning more about the opportunities for families at Cargilfield.

At all times, now more so than ever, effective governance is a priority. We have recently welcomed David Henderson and Matthew Sinclair to the Board and are delighted to benefit from the new perspectives and ideas they will bring.

As noted above, the Governors continue to be very grateful for the unstinting efforts of the Senior Management Team under the guidance of Rob Taylor, who leads a truly dedicated and committed staff body. Despite recent events, I believe 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

Looking into the summer, I thank you for your support and send my 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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## **Fees 2021-22**

For the forthcoming academic year, we have taken a prudent approach to fees. As detailed below, and after no increase last year, we have added £210 to the termly fee in the Upper School and £103 per term in the Pre-prep. The Nursery fee will remain the same.

- the Upper School fee will be £5,750 per term (£7,050 for weekly boarding)
- the Pre-prep fee will be £3,630 per term
- and the Nursery fee will remain £3,527 per term (for five full days)

The new fee bills for the Autumn term will be sent out towards the end of July, but as ever, we would want any Cargilfield family who might wish to discuss extra help or flexibility through this unprecedented time, to know that they can approach the Governors – or the Headmaster and Bursar - in confidence.

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