



OLD MERCERS' CLUB

19th March 2020

Dear Old Mercer,

Coronavirus

I am writing to tell you about the steps your Officers and Committee are taking in response to the coronavirus.

We hope that all Old Mercers and their families are well and finding ways to cope with the present situation and its uncertainties.

Your President has decided, in consultation with members of the Committee, that the government's latest advice, particularly with regard to people aged over 70, makes it necessary to cancel the weekend that was to have taken place at the beginning of May, and to postpone the President's Reception that was scheduled for May 15th. (The invitation to the Reception had not yet been sent out.) We hope to rearrange the reception on a future date, but at present it is impossible to say when that might be.

Our most important event this year is the Final Lunch on Tuesday 22nd September. We very much hope that this will be able to be held as planned. But no-one knows what the circumstances may be at that time. Your Officers will keep the situation under review, and will assess the position towards the end of June, when it will be necessary to make a decision about sending out invitations.

There is similar uncertainty about the final General Meeting of the Old Mercers' Club, which is planned for 22nd October.

We are giving thought to the alternatives that may be possible if our events in the second half of this year are not able to go ahead as planned, and will keep you informed as things develop and change.

There are about 75 Old Mercers for whom we do not have an email address, including some who live abroad, and the cost of sending a letter by post to those members is almost £70. It may be decided not to distribute by post any further letter that may be sent in connection with the consequences of the coronavirus. If you have email but have not given us your up-to-date email address, please do so. You may have a relative or friend who is willing to receive emails from the Old Mercers' Club on your behalf, in which case please let us have their email address. We will update the Old Mercers' Club website with information about the situation as it changes, and it is probable that your local library can provide the use of a computer at no cost. The website is at www.oldmercersclub.org.uk.

Meanwhile, the joint editors of the next edition of the Old Mercers' Club Magazine – Neville Watson, Howard Worth and myself - would like to thank those of you who have submitted articles, and will be pleased to welcome further contributions about the school, your experiences as a pupil, the staff, ways in which Mercers' School affected your life, and any other relevant material.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Williams

Social Secretary