

We are ... OPEN



WEST BUCKLAND
SCHOOL

We are ... SAFE

- Devon is a large, rural County - the 4th largest County in the UK - and hosts the 11th largest population yet it has the fifth lowest rate of confirmed cases of COVID-19, out of 150 upper tier local authorities.
- West Buckland is in North Devon where there have been just 92 cases of COVID-19 in total, in a population of 96,000 people, and at the time of writing there have been no new confirmed cases for over two weeks.

We are ... READY

- We never closed. We have been welcoming key worker children – some boarding full time with us – since the end of March.
- Prep aged pupils have been back in school in the second half of term, taking part in their online lessons as well as other activities and sport.
- We are therefore well-practised in the art of caring for boarders and day pupils alike, from all year groups.

We are ... LIVE TEACHING

- We have just been awarded 'Most Innovative Day and Boarding School – South West' for our forward-thinking approach and response to the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Learning has been undiminished with an outstanding 'live' learning provision through Teams from Reception to Year 13
- We are fully up to date with the curriculum specifications and, in addition, our Sixth Form are on track with their careers advice and university applications.
- Lessons return to the classroom in September, but we are happy to make individual arrangements for those unable to join us at the beginning of term.



We are ... GUIDING INTO SIXTH FORM

- Our pre-sixth form course has maintained contact with our Year 11 pupils, maintaining their learning and focus and easing their transition into Sixth Form in September.
- We have continued with our Sixth Form induction for our current Year 11.

We are ... PRIORITISING SAFETY

- We have just been shortlisted in the Independent Schools Awards for Boarding School of the Year 2020 for our outstanding facilities and boarding provision.
- As a member of the BSA (Boarding Schools Association) we have signed up to the BSA Covid Safe Charter, setting out safe protocols for staff and pupils and ensuring continuous learning for all.
- In addition, we have set up our own WBS Charter, which will give students clear guidelines for hygiene procedures expected of them on their return to school
- We accept that trips and sport may have to be curtailed for the first part of term, but we are making contingency plans for that and all activities will be subject to strict risk assessment.
- Blessed with a spacious campus and small class sizes, we can plan with some confidence towards a full reopening
- Infection control is paramount, and we have begun a full audit of time and space management to maximise safety throughout
- Our risk assessment and plans for quarantine for international pupils, including access to the UK testing and tracking system, and a strict return to school procedure for all pupils (UK and abroad)

