



**MINUTES**  
*of a meeting of the College Council*  
*at 5:00 pm on Friday 16 October 2020*

There were present by video conference: The Master, The Vice-Master, the Bursar, the Senior Tutor, Dr Beauregard, Professor Cant, Professor Ellis, Ms MacDonald, Mr Nicholson, the Revd Canon Shilson-Thomas, Dr Woodford, the JCR President, the JCR Treasurer, and the MCR President. Dr Summers and the MCR Treasurer were in attendance, as was Dr Smith as Secretary.

**UNRESERVED BUSINESS**

*cc2020.275 Statement of Conflicts of Interest*

There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.

*cc2020.276 Apologies for Absence*

Apologies were received from Mr Matheson.

*cc2020.277 Covid update*

The Master introduced this item in conjunction with Dr Summers, and with the Bursar and the Senior Tutor. Council noted that there were now thirteen confirmed cases of Covid among the Selwyn students. These thirteen individuals came from seven different households, and eight of them were in the same household. Four of the seven households affected were on A staircase, and the whole staircase had therefore been placed in isolation. A further eighty students were currently self-isolating. The programme of asymptomatic testing had so far produced no positive results in the first week and only one in the second week, which provided some reassurance. The staff were doing invaluable work in maintaining the College's operations and supporting those who were self-isolating, and no member of staff had so far displayed any symptoms of the virus.

Council additionally noted that the numbers of cases involved required a consideration of the College's Covid status, which had triggered the calling of this exceptional meeting. Council recalled that it had previously agreed that the criteria for each colour-coded status were designed as prompts for Council to make a judgement. The current status was considered, but the fact that the cases to date were highly concentrated in one area of the College, and the low numbers of positive cases arising from the asymptomatic testing programme, led the Council to agree that

the status should continue to be 'Amber' for the time being, but with some increased restrictions.

In order to prevent the further spread of infection, and to ensure that all members of the College remain as safe as possible, Council agreed to tighten the present restrictions in two specific ways. First, visits between members of different households indoors, except in designated social areas such as the Hall and the Bar, would not be permitted for an initial period of two weeks. Second, and in line with the updated University guidance, the wearing of face coverings would be required on staircases and in corridors, and for all indoor meetings that lasted more than fifteen minutes, except for those people who were eligible for an exemption. These measures would come into immediate effect and would be reviewed after two weeks, although it was recognised that they might be overtaken in the interim by changes in national or local restrictions.

Council agreed that the food provision for self-isolating students would be enhanced by the addition of a free breakfast pack in addition to the hot food delivery service already in operation, and also by introducing a 50% discount on the lunches and dinners that had been provided for isolating students, backdated to the beginning of their isolation. Council recognised the importance of supporting all those who were self-isolating, and noted that the Nurse and the Chaplain maintained regular contact with all those who had tested positive and/or were symptomatic. The JCR and MCR schemes for volunteer supporters or 'buddies' who would assist self-isolating students, e.g. by deliveries of books, were warmly welcomed, and Council noted that it was possible for the 'buddies' to provide such deliveries safely by leaving them at the threshold of a household and notifying the recipient electronically.

The Master agreed to write to all Selwyn students later that evening to let them know about these new measures. Council appreciated the co-operation and responsible behaviour of the overwhelming majority of students so far, and the JCR and MCR representatives expressed their gratitude for all that the College was doing to keep its members safe.

cc2020.278

*Any Other Unreserved Business*

There was no other Unreserved Business.

