

Wednesday, March 25th, 2020

Dear Parents,

Last week we called upon our students who remained at Bishops Gate through Spring Break to come up with fun activities, built around golf and then a variety of other sports, and it was wonderful to see their spirit in organizing and enjoying these events. We will continue to encourage the students in various activities to alleviate the stress of being “locked-down” in the Bishops Gate community.

The great advantage that we have is that we are rural, in a gated community with control of our private golf course designed for junior golfers. We have taken the precaution of not allowing any outside golf members to enter our community and also advised resident members that the juniors will be playing on the golf course throughout the day, therefore that they have lost playing privileges. In order to limit the movement of our resident families, we have offered to purchase their food supplies through our Sysco catering supplier.

Our Residential Instructors are also part of the lock-down, as am I, but our golf coaches do travel in. We have hundreds of facemasks as well as plastic gloves and now ask our golf coaches to wear these masks and gloves when giving instruction to our students. The golf coaches are required to keep 10 feet of separation from the students at all times and we enforce this vigorously, both with the golf coaches and reminding students of their responsibility. Because of this “separation” our Director of Golf, Gary Gilchrist, and Director of Golf Operations, Brad Turner, have revised the golf training schedule to focus more on Playing and Autonomous Training, through a Level of Competency program, as it is preferred to group instruction on the range. These changes will minimize the need for getting within the 10 feet of separation between students’ coaches, however our coaches will remain active in supervision of our students. You will receive a communication explaining the program by the end of this week.

Fifteen students who left for Spring Break have returned to campus and are serving their period of isolation, which has them in separate houses, each in separate bedrooms, required to wear gloves if they enter the public rooms in that house. They are not allowed in our Catering, Fitness or Education Centers, but have food brought to their houses. They do have golf practice, can play on the golf course but are separated from the other students who did not leave campus.

This afternoon almost forty students from our South Carolina golf academy will be relocated to Bishops Gate as their public golf course, indoor golf facility and housing is unsafe. We have four separate houses for the boys, normally set aside for visiting College / Country teams, and predominantly two houses for the girls, with six Bishops Gate girls in those two houses. These forty students have been in lock-down for the same period of twelve days as the Bishops Gate students. Five South Carolina academy students remain in quarantine at that academy and will only come down after they have served their quarantine period.

Clearly, this will result in the academy being busy, with both benefits and challenges. We have increased our Residential Instructor team by two for increased supervision whilst students' study online and to support student activities which at this stage are limited to on campus activities. We have also extended our catering services to include regular grocery shopping on behalf of our students, at our expense, encouraging them to practice their culinary skills at home, an activity that is being enjoyed by some of our students.

Difficult times for sure, but we are exercising prudent leadership and serving our student body to the best of our ability. A special thanks to our Catering and Housekeeping teams who so often are taken for granted.

Best regards,

Andrew Summers (CEO)