

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: 'HPS@ThePod'**

I wanted to share with you that we have reached an agreement with Hungerford Primary School for them to make temporary use of our 'Pod' outbuilding to enable them to offer provision for a few more of their pupils. This provision will begin early next week and we have agreed to call it 'HPS@ThePod'.

It is really pleasing to be able to offer some support to our wider local community and a fellow school in such difficult times and, as a community school is exactly the sort of thing that JOG should be doing. Hungerford Primary School will be able to bring two 'bubbles' of their pupils into The Pod and offer the same high-quality provision they are offering the pupils currently attending their own site. Having met with the Headteacher Mr Mayer, and several of his team this week, I know they are delighted that we can work with them to make this happen. Primary Schools have slightly different guidelines around social distancing than the more stringent government guidelines that exist for Secondary Schools. These prevent us from bringing in all but a very limited number of our own students.

The Pod is an unoccupied prefabricated outbuilding that will be kept entirely separate from the rest of the school site. In fact, where it is situated means that HPS pupils and staff will not even need to enter the main part of the JOG buildings. Arrival and departure times will be staggered so as not to clash with those of either of the provisions running at JOG and HPS staff and pupils will enter through their own separate gate. Therefore, there are no concerns around public health, cross-contamination or the safeguarding of children from either school.

The agreement is in the short term only and initially until the end of the school year. Clearly, we hope that schools will return to normal as soon as possible and Hungerford Primary School would therefore not have further need of this provision. Most importantly for the JOG community, if the government were to change their guidance for us, the agreed set up would not impact on our ability to widen our offer as we would be able to accommodate our students in other parts of the site, should the need arise. Whilst of course, we would welcome the opportunity to have more of our students back into school, this is not possible as things stand.

I hope that you will understand our reasoning and celebrate being able to offer something genuinely helpful to our local community. I for one am looking forward to seeing the HPS pupils arrive at JOG, albeit from a suitable distance.

With best wishes,



**Mr Richard Hawthorne**  
Head of School