

13th September 2024

Dear parents

As you will be aware, in July this year the Government announced that it would be introducing VAT at a rate of 20% on school fees from January 2025, an earlier date than had been anticipated by those of us in the independent sector. We wrote to all of you following that announcement and outlined the work the College was doing to understand the impact that this Government decision would have on the school. This modelling also took into account the loss of business rates relief which is currently 80% and which will cease entirely after 1st April 2025. We are very grateful to all of those in the Finance team who have carried out this extensive work.

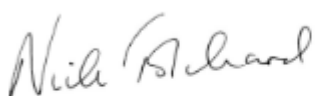
Although the exact details of the legislation will not be announced until the Government's Budget at the end of October, we recognise that to wait until then creates an unacceptable period of uncertainty for you. We are therefore writing to you now to let you know the impact on fees assuming that there is no substantial change to the Government's position.

Our financial modelling has shown that with our ability to reclaim VAT on certain costs from January along with other measures and savings we will implement, we will be able to mitigate some of the impact of VAT. As such, the amount parents are charged for the term will rise by 12% from January 2025. The only year group exempt in the legislation from VAT is the Preschool year so parents with children in the Preschool will not see fees increase in January.

It goes without saying that we very much regret having to increase fees as a result of the Government's decision but we would reassure parents that there will be no further increases in the future arising from the imposition of VAT or loss of business rates relief. For the academic year 2025/26 fees will be set as we have in the past with reference to the impact of inflation on our cost base.

We are extremely conscious of the financial sacrifice required by parents when they choose to send their children to Clifton, and we recognise that for some this rise in fees may be unattainable. If parents do wish to give notice to leave at the end of the Michaelmas term then under these exceptional circumstances we will accept notice until Thursday 24th October 2024, the first day of half term. This said, we certainly do not wish to see any parent forced into taking their children out of Clifton and we absolutely understand the challenges of trying to find an alternative school at such short notice. We would welcome a conversation with any parents who have concerns and encourage them not hesitate in getting in touch to discuss.

Best wishes



Mr Nick Tolchard
Chair of Council



Dr Tim Greene
Head of College