



13th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the government's announcements this week about the easing of lockdown restrictions and the possibility schools will be allowed to have Year 10 students back part-time, sometime after the 1st of June.

There is still great uncertainty around what will actually happen, not least, because the 'five tests' that the government has determined have to be met in order for any limited reopening of schools. This means for example, that infection rates still have to be falling. If this is not the case school reopening will be delayed. Please be aware that we find out information from the government at the same time you do.

The announcements did appear to clarify that students in Years 7-9 and 11 will not return to school this side of the summer holidays, because they were not mentioned by the Prime Minister and have not been included in any of the national guidance regarding students returning to school. We will, therefore, continue to set work and support Years 7-9 and 11 as we are now. As such work will be updated weekly on our website, class teachers will be available via email and if there any concerns about access to the work please continue to contact the school and we will continue to provide the necessary support such as laptops. For Year 11 students we will not be expecting them to complete any work after half term, as that is when Year 11 would usually finish school for exams. However, we will continue to support Year 11 after this date and will be focused on making sure everything is in place to support them with their post 16 next steps.

For Year 10, we are in the process of planning what we can safely provide. The government has asked that schools provide for Year 10 for some of the time, not full time, to support their home learning. In accordance with this guidance we are working on a variety of plans in school to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus when some children return. These plans will mean reduced class sizes to lower the chance of transmission, alterations to the timings of the school day, to allow staggered starts and ends, breaks and lunchtimes being very different and students not attending school full time, so the continuation of some home learning for Year 10.

The main part of this planning will be procedures to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus when more students are in school. There will be lots of changes to make, and we will need 100% cooperation from students when they are in school. As soon as we have finalised these plans, we will immediately

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make Year 10 parents and students aware, however at present this cannot happen until we have more details from the government and local authority.

It was also clear in the announcements that there are no changes to which pupils may currently attend school. Therefore, if your child currently attends school, they should continue to do so, however this provision has not been extended. The list of critical workers as defined by the government, is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

For now, though, it is worth recognising that the vast majority of learning, for the remainder of the school year, will still have to be conducted from home. We are very aware of how difficult this is, and we are very grateful for the efforts and sacrifices parents and carers are making and will continue to make. None of us would have chosen this for our children, and we can only make the best of it, together.

When we have more information from the government and our plans are ready to share, I will contact Year 10 parents. However, this will not happen until we believe all measures have been put in place, in accordance with government guidance, to ensure students and staff at Fullhurst are as safe as they can be.

Thank you for your support during a very challenging period for all of us and I hope that you and your family are remaining safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Piggot
Principal



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