



17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following further information from the Prime Minister yesterday where he reiterated the decision for schools to remain open, Farnborough will be implementing the following strategy;

- Any staff that fall into the vulnerable groups or staff that show new symptoms of COVID-19 are expected to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Any students that display symptoms, live in a household where a member of that household is displaying symptoms or they have underlying existing medical conditions that would be vulnerable are also expected to self-isolate.

All other staff and students are expected to be in school unless 'normal illness' occurs. At present we are able to open as normal and expect this to continue this week, however, if staff absences increase due to self-isolation, then a partial closure situation may occur. If this does need to happen then priority will be given to Year 11 at all times due to terminal examination pressures.

The severity of the partial closure would be determined by staff absence so at this stage it is impossible to predict how that would look but the following broad principles would be administered;

- Y7 will be next priority due to likely enforced childcare if they are not in school.
- All other year groups will be rotated depending on the severity of staff absence.
- **As a special consideration we will accommodate any children of parents that work in the emergency services and front-line medical profession (regardless of partial closure) to allow those parents to do the essential work that is required to protect lives and keep the community safe. If this applies to you can you contact the academy to make us aware so we can pre-plan.** I hope all parents understand the rationale behind this decision.

We will endeavour to make any decisions around a partial closure as soon as possible in order to support families with their arrangements as best we can, but, please understand that this situation changes so rapidly we can only respond when we have information. We will do everything we can to ensure a safe environment and keep the school open for as long as that is the case, if at any time safety is compromised I will close the school.

I also want to reassure parents that we fully understand your rights to protect your children and family and accept that you may choose to keep children off school and choose to self-isolate as a family for social distancing purposes or COVID-19 symptom purposes.



For that reason, we want to be clear that during this crisis we will not be fining anyone for absence and would just ask you to be honest in your communications with us so we can keep everyone safe.

Any changes and updates including partial school closures will be communicated via text, email and social media at our earliest convenience, please keep a close eye on these channels.

As stated in previous correspondence we have reduced the contact with anyone outside our school community dramatically and will continue to 'screen' anyone visiting the school as well as the following measures;

- All 'non-essential' trips, visits and events both in school and within the UK have been cancelled.
- Parents evenings and other events where large groups of people would be in a small indoor space have been postponed.
- Sporting fixtures have been postponed.

Can I finally ask parents to be mindful of the stress and pressures on schools at this moment in time and whilst we will always try to support and help you we cannot, and are not in a position to, offer medical advice.

Please stay safe and support each other and our community as best we can. The great Clifton community spirit I have had the pleasure of being part of since I started working at Farnborough has never been needed more in these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Jobling
Head of School