

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Update Thursday 12th March 2020

I am writing to provide you with an update of the School's response to the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19. I can confirm that all 7 members of the School community who were tested for the virus returned negative test results. We continue to monitor the situation vigilantly and keep up to date with guidance from relevant bodies, especially Public Health England (PHE) and the Department for Education.

Our first concern is the welfare and safety of the whole of the Felsted community, and our second principle is to support the learning of our students, and their preparation for external exams. We are continuing to maintain routine and 'business as usual' as far as is sensible, as this seems the best approach to maintain the right response to the current advice.

Felsted has taken a number of precautionary measures in order to safeguard the school community, and will continue to review this list on a daily basis in order to do all that we can to minimise the risk.

Measures taken by Felsted School

[As per the Government's advice](#), any pupil presenting with a new continuous cough and/or high temperature (37.8 or above) will be required to remain at home (or in isolation) for seven days.

All pupils and staff have been briefed on the importance of upholding the highest standards of hygiene, especially to wash hands thoroughly. Hand washing posters have been placed across the School, and teachers are regularly reminding students of the importance of this step.

Also, pupils and staff have been briefed to ensure that coughs and sneezes are caught in tissues that are then thrown away in a closed bin.

Pupils and staff have been briefed not to touch their faces (eyes, nose or mouth) with their hands.

Please do not be offended if you are not offered a hand to shake, but all members of the community are asked not to shake hands.

Where soap and water is not immediately available, the School has provided alcohol based hand gel in order to ensure that hands are washed regularly.

Cleaning of the School has been increased to ensure that, in particular, all door handles and open surfaces are cleaned more frequently, with additional focus in high use areas.

Pupils and staff are being discouraged from any unnecessary travel, including over the coming exeat weekend.

Over the remaining weeks of term, it may be necessary to cancel sporting fixtures. We are in regular communication with other schools, and will assess the risks prior to each individual planned event or fixture. Other schools may also choose to cancel fixtures based on the preventative measures they have in place. We are currently reviewing the best course of action for all sports fixtures. We will communicate these decisions to pupils and parents at the earliest opportunity.

Visitors to the School are being contacted before they arrive. We are asking staff to consider if these visits to the school are necessary, or if they could be conducted remotely. In addition, visitors are asked to confirm that they have not visited any [Category 1 or Category 2](#) countries before they arrive on site and do not have symptoms of the virus. All visitors have to confirm this on arrival and are asked to wash their hands (or use hand sanitising dispensers).

All families will be asked to confirm travel plans for the Easter holidays, and Felsted continues to advise against travel to all affected areas. This will greatly reduce risk and ensure that students do not become affected by any future travel restrictions.

We are assessing all upcoming events planned at Felsted. A number of events have already been cancelled, including all external lettings for the remainder of this term, in order to minimise the risk of infection being brought into the school and community. This includes, for the remainder of the term, the complete closure of the school swimming pool, and closure of the gym for non-school use.

We continue to ask all parents, staff and pupils to notify us immediately if you have returned from either a business or leisure trip to Category 1 or Category 2 or other affected countries before you visit the campus.

Felsted School is assessing each upcoming trip individually, and will inform parents and pupils when decisions have been made.

Felsted is keeping a boarding house open throughout the Easter break to support students who are not able to travel home, and to reduce the risk of students having to go into quarantine.

Contingency planning

We recognise that there is a strong possibility that Schools will have to close at some point. Felsted is working hard to prepare all of our teachers to be able to provide ongoing remote learning and tutor support via Google Classroom (for Years 5-13), to minimise disruption to learning and progress. For younger pupils, work will be shared via email with parents, and work packs. We will work with all of our students to ensure that they bring home the required work for any period of closure.

If the school does have to close, we will continue to provide boarding for students who are not able to travel home, as we are doing across the Easter break.

At present all students should continue to anticipate public exams taking place as timetabled, although we will continue to monitor developments in this area closely.

We continue to appreciate the support that we have received from all our parents and guardians in maintaining these preventative measures.

Please contact the School if you have any further questions via the normal channels.

Yours sincerely

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Headmaster, Felsted School

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Headmaster, Felsted Prep School