

## Felsted School Update: Coronavirus (Covid-19) - 19 March 2020

Following yesterday's brief communication, we are writing to update you further on the school's approach to the current situation. As the Government is increasing its measures to protect and support the public, we are following that guidance, and will close on **Friday 20th March**.

We will be running a slightly shortened day on **Friday**, to reduce travel time, and enable pupils and parents to get home at a reasonable hour. Therefore, I would ask you to come to collect your children at the following times on Friday:

Reception to Year 2: 3.30pm

Years 3/4: 3.40pm

Years 5/6: 3.50pm

Years 7/8: 4.00pm

Senior School (years 9-12): 3.15pm

Senior School (Upper 6th): 3.45pm

For those on school transport, the buses will be running, and will leave school at 4.30pm.

It is not clear at this stage exactly how long the **closure** will be, but we are currently planning to reopen at the start of the Summer Term, with Boarding Houses open on Monday 20th April, and school starting properly on Tuesday 21st April. We will remain in contact in the coming days and weeks in order to update you on these plans, as we recognise that these plans may well change, and we need to be able to be flexible to respond to the current situation.

For **Boarders**, all houses will remain open on Friday night to support anyone who is not able to get home. For those who need to remain for longer than this, the school is remaining open for boarders throughout the remainder of this term, and the Easter break. Boarders will be relocated to one of the boarding houses, and there will be a programme to support their online learning during this time, as well as a limited range of activities to keep them active, and maintain their wellbeing.

Please could we ask that parents who are **not** able to collect at the times stated above, communicate with the school (through the normal channels) at the earliest possible time, to help with our planning and supervision.

## School Closure

Although the school site will be closed to pupils, we will continue to deliver education remotely.

1. Pupils will continue to follow the normal school timetable for all of their lessons, which will be provided via **Google Classroom** and/or workbooks for our younger pupils. Teachers will be available to support learning, and provide feedback to the pupils during the working day. This should start on Monday 23rd March at 9am, and will continue until the scheduled end of term (Friday 27th March 12noon). During the Easter holiday, pastoral staff will continue to be in touch with their tutees, while academic staff will be available to answer questions and support learning, revision or coursework on a regular basis.

2. **Pastoral care** and support will be provided through the normal people, with Housemaster and Housemistresses or Phase Leaders (in the Prep School) managing the Tutors to remain in close contact with pupils, and parents, about progress in learning and general health. The Wellbeing Centre will be available by telephone or email for anyone who requires additional support at this difficult time (please see additional communication).

3. We will expect each pupil to take regular **exercise** (walking the dog, going for a run, doing some yoga) and to do something to **supplement** their 'classroom' learning (playing Music, reading books, taking up a new hobby). Tutors will provide ideas, guidance, and support for these important areas of life.

[Please can all parents read these guidance details for online learning: felsted.org/covid19](https://www.felsted.org/covid19)

## Children of Key Workers

We will also be welcoming children of **key workers** (a term which the Government is going to define later today). If your job is not included in that list, but you need our support, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are finalising the plans for this provision (and will communicate separately with those who have requested this), but expect that we will be offering support and supervision from 8.30am until 4pm, Monday to Friday. For those affected directly by this, please respond to the separate communication, and not this one.

The expectation will be that the children who are in school will work on the remote learning tasks while at school, so those who can should bring a Chromebook or other device with them.

Once we know how many children this is likely to be, we will work out arrangements in a bit more detail, such as where they will be based, and who will be supervising the children.

## **Public Exams**

For those of you with children affected directly by public exams, you will be aware of the statement by the Prime Minister that **GCSE and A Level exams** will not go ahead as normal in May and June. There is not a lot more information about this yet, but we are following this very closely in order to support all of our students.

At present, the **IB Diploma** exams are still scheduled to go ahead as planned in May, although it is not entirely clear how this might happen. It is therefore very important that IB students continue to prepare thoroughly for these exams. **IGCSE exams** are also still scheduled to go ahead as planned, and again, Year 11 students must continue to prepare for English Language, English Literature, Maths and Music. We will update you once we hear more.

Meanwhile, we are strongly encouraging students to complete any non-examined work (coursework, portfolios, NEAs etc.) as these could be considered when a system is agreed for giving grades in subjects that do not have exams this year. We will continue to provide remote learning for Year 11 and Upper 6th students next week, and do expect them to complete this work while we are still waiting for definitive answers.

## **In Summary**

We recognise that this is a very challenging time for a lot of families, with a great deal of uncertainty, not least financially. We are currently working to provide clarity on the impact of yesterday's decisions, and we want to work with any family that is struggling as a result of this.

It is also a very challenging time emotionally for families, and many of the pupils will find it very hard to cope with some of what is going on. It is very important that they do not solely resort to social media, and we can help them (and ourselves) by insisting on conversation, and a variety of activities during the day.

Meanwhile, we intend to end the term with the best possible finish at school, and a positive week of remote learning. We will remain in contact about next steps in the coming days and weeks.

With all best wishes,

Chris Townsend  
Headmaster, Felsted School

Simon James  
Headmaster, Felsted Prep School

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