

A phased return to school: draft plan, 12th May

This plan is based on the statement of PM Boris Johnson (10th May) and the publication of DFE guidance (11th May), although this remains in draft form at this stage, while we work out the detail behind the meanings of some of this guidance, and the potential impact on Felsted School. Due to demands of social distancing, and government guidance, the first phase of return to school will be markedly different from school before the virus, and we will release details of our plans in that regard as soon as they are finalised (for

- Felsted School will not physically reopen its doors before the end of May (except to children of key workers, as currently in practice).
- Further guidance and wider consultation is required before this plan can be confirmed, but it is designed to be useful to staff, pupils and parents.
- We are currently preparing to be ready to open for pupils in specified year groups (**Reception, Year 1, and Year 6¹**) from **Monday 1st June** [NB this is the **earliest** date that schools can open, not the **confirmed** date at this stage]. However, we will not open until we have put in place the measures required to make it as safe as possible to do so, and if that is later than 1st June, or the Government moves that date, we will communicate in advance with all those affected.
- We are waiting for greater clarity on the position for **Years 10 and 12**, but based on the DFE advice, we hope to put together a programme that enables some face to face time for these year groups, **no sooner than 1st June** (as above).
- A full and systematic risk assessment, and mitigation procedures to manage the risk posed by COVID-19 will be worked through in the coming days and made available to all stakeholders.
- The school will not be able to offer transport to and from school during this initial phase.
- The school is reviewing whether we will be able to offer catering during this initial phase, or whether we will require pupils to come to school with snacks, lunch and drinks.
- The school will not be able to offer boarding² during this initial phase, although this is being reviewed alongside the latest advice.
- Remote education will continue even if the school reopens for the majority of year groups.

- During the initial phased return to school, pupils will be kept in small groups (probably no more than 10 pupils) to facilitate social distancing, under the care of one teacher.
- There will be no mixing of these small groups of students within school.
- A detailed staffing plan is still to be worked through, and will need to minimise the number of teachers working with each group, but also consider circumstances facing teachers (possible need to shield, health concerns etc.)
- In Reception and Year 1, these are likely to be taught classes.
- Where necessary, and probably with Year 6, the pupils will follow the remote learning programme under supervision, rather than class specific teaching, so should come to school with an internet enabled device where possible.
- The school day will run approximately from 8.30am - 3.30pm, although we may use staggered start and finish times to make social distancing more effective. Details will be shared in due course.
- During break times, pupils will be able to go outside but must remain in their class groups, and retain social distancing.
- If possible, we will offer some exercise during the school day to pupils, but in their class groups, and socially distanced.
- We will continue to monitor the advice in order to put more details around these plans in the coming days, and adapt this planning accordingly.

I am sorry that there remain as many questions as answers at this stage, but I thought that it was still important to share our thinking with you. We will continue to work hard to come up with the best plan to deal with this challenging situation. I am very grateful for your patience, and look forward to a return to greater normality in the near future.

Chris Townsend

12th May 2020