

Dear Parents,

Please see our latest plans below, relating to the return of Year 10 and Lower 6th. It is important that parents of children in these two year groups read these notes carefully. Where the text is underlined, you are asked to reply to the school (if appropriate).

For parents of children in other year groups, there is some relevant information (particularly Looking to the Future).

For those who are going to come into school from June 15th, further specific details will be sent to you next week. In addition, I will be sending out detailed start dates/times for next term in the next 10 days, in order to help you with your planning.

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I am writing to confirm the arrangements for the continuing phased return to school from Monday 15th June, in line with the Government guidance ([Guidance for secondary school provision from 15 June 2020](#)). We have already asked for indications of those wanting to come back into school, and I would like to repeat that there is no compulsion to come in for these days, and that remote learning will continue as now during this time. If you have previously said that your son or daughter will be coming back in, now that we have these further details, we would ask that you confirm that (in response to this message). If you have changed your mind, please let us know **as soon as possible** so that we can make necessary arrangements.

Year 10

Year 10 pupils can come into school on the following dates:

Wednesday 17th June to Friday 19th June

Wednesday 24th June to Friday 26th June

Wednesday 1st July to Friday 3rd July

The pupils will be divided into four small groups, with members of staff supervising each group on a rota basis. Members of staff will hold an in-person tutorial-style discussion with the group in the morning, before the pupils get on with their remote learning. On each day that they are in, there will be opportunities for social interaction within the group, and some exercise. In addition, we are focusing on core subject provision, so each group will have a daily session with one of English, Maths or Science teachers, to support their remote learning.

Lower 6th

Lower 6th pupils can come into school on the following dates:

Monday 15th June and Tuesday 16th June

Monday 22nd June and Tuesday 23rd June

Monday 29th June and Tuesday 30th June

The pupils will be divided into small groups, members of staff supervising each group based on a rota. One of these groups will be Art students, and they will be based in the Art Department, so that they are able to continue with their practical work. Pupils will be expected to get on with their remote learning, but members of staff will hold in-person tutorial-style discussions with the group each morning, and the supervising teachers are being chosen, as far as possible, to be teachers who teach subjects studied by the pupils in their group, so that support can be provided. In addition, we will be providing specific support for University preparation, Extended Project Qualification and transition to the Upper Sixth houses. For those not coming in, information relating to all of these will be provided remotely.

Logistics

- The day will run (approximately) from 8.30am to 3.30pm. Exact details of staggered arrival and pick-up times will follow when the groups are finalised.
- Pupils must bring in a fully charged chromebook or other laptop and headphones (ideally headphones with a built-in microphone).
- Pupils should **not** come in wearing uniform; each day they should wear clean clothes that are machine-washable, practical and can be used for light exercise.
- Lunch (and other snacks) will be provided by the school, to be eaten in the class groups. Pupils should bring in a refillable water bottle with them. Those attending will be charged in arrears £3/day to cover costs of this provision.
- As far as possible, music lessons, LAMDA lessons and language tutorials will be scheduled for days when the pupils are not in school, to minimise disruption and movement around the site.
- When not in school, remote learning will continue as is currently happening, including morning tutorials, and timetabled lessons.

Measures being taken to ensure safety include:

- Enhanced cleaning regime, including deep clean of all areas being used before pupils return, and airing of all rooms
- Increased handwashing provision, with pupils and staff required to wash hands on arrival, and frequently throughout the day
- Temperature testing on arrival
- Limited group sizes, and no crossover between groups in school
- Pupils and their households required to confirm that they are symptom free, and following government guidelines on social distancing

Other Year groups

At present, the guidance does not allow us to have other year groups in school. If this were to change, we would let you know and may adapt our plans accordingly, depending on the timing of any such announcement.

Boarding

Following the success of our 'lockdown' boarding house over Easter, we are planning to open boarding for a small group of volunteers for the final week of term. As things currently stand, these need to be pupils from Year 10 and Lower 6th. Pupils would need to arrive on Sunday afternoon (28th June) and leave on Friday afternoon (3rd July). While the learning would continue to be 'remote learning', it would be done on site, and within the boarding community, there would be the opportunity for social interaction, some activity, games and exercise.

This report from the experience in April should give a sense of what the experience will be like for those boarding during this week: [Felstedians experience a Felsted lockdown](#)

There will be a small charge for this (£140), to be added to the next bill. **Please let us know as soon as possible if you would be interested in your son or daughter boarding during this final week of term.**

Looking to the future

We are optimistic that next academic year will be more normal, although the new normal might not be quite what we have seen before in some respects. For example, we might have to adapt to what sports can be played in September, with Tennis and Cricket easier for social distancing than Rugby. Mealtimes might have to be more staggered, and assemblies might have to be divided up into year groups. It is possible that classes will have to be divided to reduce numbers in classrooms, and boarding house capacities reduced. All of this is in our thinking, but not yet finalised.

We **are** planning to run assessments for Years 10 and Lower 6th (who will then be Y11 and U6) in the week before term is due to start (Sep 1st to Sep 4th). Teachers will be working with their students to give them guidance on completing a week of focused revision for these assessments. This is important to ensure that nobody falls behind in their public exam year, and where we do identify gaps in understanding, we will have time to put that right. For pupils who cannot make it to Felsted during that week, papers will be able to be provided remotely, for completing at home.

Other year groups will hopefully be able to start the term more or less as normal, although we will publish our start of year, including plans for induction, more fully in due course.

We intend to offer boarding for this week, and the week before (from Aug 24th) for overseas boarders (if quarantine is required for 14 days). We will keep boarding open over half term if students would still face quarantine by that stage of the year.

Chris Townsend

June 5th 2020