

Dear Parents,

We would like to thank you for all the support shown in the last few weeks, as we have been preparing the school for full reopening. It has been wonderful over the last few days to see so many smiling faces back at Felsted, the sound of children enjoying seeing friends, and getting back to learning as well. We have been particularly pleased to get all lessons running, and a full and varied co-curricular programme, although we are still not holding fixtures with other schools, limiting visitors, and not running any trips at this stage.

Communications

We have been planning for various different scenarios over the coming weeks, and want to ensure that we maintain the best possible communication with you about what we are doing. For regular updates, please read the weekly newsletter. This will be released each week on a Friday afternoon to all families, and will contain news on any changes that we are making to our arrangements. If you are not currently receiving the newsletter, please contact the school (reception@felsted.org) so that we can ensure that you do receive this. If there are more significant changes, or more urgent news, we will write to you via e-mail. These updates will also be added to our website. If you have any concerns that you would like to raise with us, please contact the school in the normal way and we will respond as quickly as possible. For more informal communication, please do follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Covid

If your child has any specific Covid symptoms

(<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>), please keep them at home, and arrange for them to be tested. Inform the school as soon as possible, as we will then identify other students who have been in close contact at school, and, if the test result is positive, we will ask them to self isolate. We have established good contact with the local Public Health England team, and will continue to talk to them if necessary. If your child develops symptoms while at school, we will either ask you to collect them, or if that is not possible, make arrangements here for testing, and a period of isolation in school facilities.

Learning at home

We are committed to keeping the school open as normal, if at all possible, and for as long as possible. However, we recognise that there remains a chance that a number of pupils (or staff) might have to be out of the classroom at some point. Our primary approach will focus on in-class provision, with google classroom used to provide learning resources for anyone in isolation, but if we reach a 'tipping point', we will contact those classes directly to let you know of any change.

Exams and exam years

We understand that this is a difficult time for those who face public exams in the coming year, and that there remains a great deal of uncertainty. We are working on the basis that exams will go ahead in the coming summer, with some reduction to content, and perhaps a slightly later

start date. It is unlikely that IB exams will have their dates changed. As soon as the Government makes its decision for the summer exams, we will contact you again. In the meantime, our Y11 and U6 pupils have done progress checks, which will be used to support their learning, and you should get feedback on those progress checks in just over a week's time.

Boarding

We are delighted to be able to invite contemporary boarders back into normal boarding from the beginning of next week, after a successful start to this term's boarding. Thank you to those who have already participated in boarding for 14 days prior to term, on the LEAP course, or for their progress checks. We can confirm that we will be happy to offer boarding over the exeat weekends this term for full boarders, and over half term for those who would benefit from this. A survey will be sent to all overseas boarding families in the next few days to assess demand, so that we can plan for half term and upcoming holidays.

Help at home

The Government has just put in place stricter measures in relation to social gatherings in England, and we would ask that you follow the Government guidance in any arrangements that you make at this time.

All best wishes,

Chris Townsend
Simon James

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C. J.
Townsend

Headmaster