

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have been able to enjoy a good Christmas, something of a break, and have a very good New Year's Eve tonight, albeit without any of the usual parties.

I wanted to update you on our plans, in light of the latest government statement of yesterday afternoon. As you will know, a number of regions in Essex have been put under special additional measures, but this does not include Uttlesford, where the rate of infection is still lower than most parts of the county.

A number of people have raised the point that some families live in areas that are under these additional measures, but it is the school's location that is relevant to opening, and then attendance. **Obviously, it is important that those living in any of these areas follow the Tier 4 guidance, and all safety measures (as is important for all Felsted families).**

Therefore, our plans are as follows:

**Overseas boarders returning for isolation** - arrangements remain in place for boarders to come to Felsted from Saturday 2nd January. There will be a separate communication from Mr Masters, which will ask for you to confirm your individual arrangements, and answer any questions you may have.

**Return to school** - the arrangements for each year group are as follows - please note that more details will be sent out in the coming days

- Reception up to and including Year 6 - return to school on Monday 11th January as previously planned
- Years 7 and 8 - the first week of school (Monday 11th - Saturday 16th January) will be delivered remotely, and pupils should not be in school during this week\*. Return to school on Monday 18th January
- Years 9, 10 and Lower 6th - the first week of school (Monday 11th - Saturday 16th January) will be delivered remotely, and pupils should not be in school during this week\*. Return to school on Monday 18th January
- Year 11 - return to school on Monday 11th January as previously planned (or Sunday 10th for boarders)
- Upper 6th - return to school on Monday 11th January as previously planned (or Sunday 10th for boarders). We currently plan for mock exams to go ahead in school as planned, although we are reviewing the logistics over this weekend, and will confirm any changes on Monday 4th January

\* - for boarders who are in school, they will be supported with remote learning in school (more details to follow)

**Critical workers and vulnerable children** - in addition to the year groups in school, we will also be providing supervision for any children of critical workers (as listed [here](#)) and vulnerable children. If you need us to provide supervised remote learning for your children under these categories, please confirm by close of play on **Thursday 7th January** (FPS - [prepadmin@felsted.org](mailto:prepadmin@felsted.org); Senior School - [dhpa@felsted.org](mailto:dhpa@felsted.org)).

**Exams** - all public exams due to take place in January are going ahead. We are currently planning to go ahead with the Upper 6th mock exams (IB starting 11th January, A Level on 18th January), but will review finally over this weekend, and confirm any changes at the beginning of next week.

**Community Testing** - Felsted will be supporting the national effort by providing testing for pupils and staff. We are still waiting for the final information, and will be in touch again early next week with details of how we will carry this out. The tests that we use will be the 20-30 minute turn around lateral flow tests, and we expect to receive these from 4th January for use.

We will be testing Year 11 and Upper 6th at the start of term, and they will have two tests, at least 72 hours apart. We are planning to do the first test on Friday 8th January, for all who are able to get to Felsted on that date, and will confirm early next week.

We will then test Years 7 to 10 and Lower 6th prior to their return to school, with further information to follow early next week. The latest announcement suggested that pupils below year 7 will be able to be tested from the end of January, but we will confirm this when more is known.

**\*\*\*We will be sending a form to gain permission to carry out this testing shortly - please respond as soon as you can\*\*\***

We will also be testing staff.

**Covid Safety Measures** - we are reviewing our risk assessment, but intend to maintain the measures that were in place at the end of last term. One of the key measures is that anyone who is displaying any symptoms should **not** come into school, but arrange an NHS test as soon as possible.

If you have concerns about health, or are having difficulties getting back to school for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible.

Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you in 2021, when we hope to see the impact of vaccination across the country. In the meantime, we are confident that the safety measures that we have put in place, alongside the new testing, will help to ensure that Felsted remains a safe place and that we can continue to offer the very best in education.

Best wishes,

Chris and Simon

C. J. Townsend  
Headmaster  
Felsted School

S. C. James  
Headmaster  
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