

Email subject line: **Felsted School Start of Term Arrangements - Autumn 2021**

Dear Parents

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children 'back to school' (whether as a returning pupil or as a new member of the Felsted community) and hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer break.

We have been planning carefully for the return to school in order to ensure that pandemic-related risks are minimised and have updated our policies for the operation of the school in line with the most up-to-date Government guidance and safe practice, including good hygiene, appropriate cleaning, ventilation and testing. The latest Government guidance has meant that we have had to make some slight changes to previously-published return times for some year groups, in order to carry out the on-site testing required for the pupils at the start of term.

The return times for the Lower Sixth and Year 9 remain as previously published:

- **Lower Sixth students should arrive at Houses, wearing school uniform, on Monday 6 September at 11:00 am**, where they and parents will be met by house staff with refreshments. The students will then go for testing, after which the Lower Sixth Induction will start at 12:30 pm. The Induction programme proceeds throughout the afternoon and is followed by activities in houses. Day Pupils should be picked up at approximately 7:30 pm, while boarders are expected to stay on the first night.
- **Year 9 pupils should arrive at Houses, wearing school uniform, on Tuesday 7 September at 11:00 am** where they and parents will be met by house staff with refreshments. The pupils will then go for testing, after which the Year 9 Induction will start at 12:30 pm. The Induction programme proceeds throughout the afternoon and Day Pupils should then be picked up from houses at 5:45 pm, while boarders are expected to stay on the first night.

The return times for Years 10, 11 and Upper Sixth are earlier than previously published in order to allow time for testing:

- **Upper Sixth students should arrive at Houses on Tuesday 7 September at 2:30 pm** and will then go for testing. Day Pupils will then be able to return home after they have completed their test. Upper Sixth students should arrive in casual clothes.
- **Year 11 pupils should arrive at Houses on Tuesday 7 September at 4:00 pm** and will then go for testing. Day Pupils will then be able to return home immediately after they have completed their test. Year 11 pupils should arrive in casual clothes.
- **Year 10 pupils should arrive at Houses on Tuesday 7 September at 5:00 pm** and will then go for testing. Day Pupils will then be able to return home immediately after they have completed their test. Year 10 pupils should arrive in casual clothes.

In order to continue to minimise risk of transmission, please note that until further notice we are continuing our policy not to have parents inside school buildings. To this end, parents will be greeted by house staff outside the houses at the start of term, while pupils bring their belongings into the houses.

On **Wednesday 8 September**, pupils should be in school to register by 8:15 am after which House Assemblies, the Start of Term Service, Headmaster's Assembly and Tutorials will take place. The normal routine of lessons will then commence after break at 11:15 am.

As usual, a reminder please not to bring your child into school if they are displaying any of the **COVID-19 symptoms** (high temperature; new, continuous cough; loss or change to sense of smell or taste) and to take a PCR test as soon as possible, in line with Government guidance.

As regards **face coverings**, while they are no longer a requirement in schools, members of the community are very welcome to wear them if they so wish. Please note that it remains the case in Government guidance that it is expected and recommended that face coverings are worn on school transport (including for Away fixtures). For this reason, and in case of any local requirements, all pupils should continue to have a face covering available to them at school.

Pupils who would like to do so are encouraged to attend **Pre-season Hockey and Rugby** between now and the start of term:

- Boys' Pre-season Rugby takes place next week on Tues 31 Aug, Wed 1 Sept and Thurs 2 Sept (10.00am - 1.00pm for Years 9 and 10; 10.00am - 4:00pm for Year 11 and Sixth Form). If you have not already signed up and would like to do so, please contact alc@felsted.org for more details.
- Girls' Pre-season Hockey takes place for the 1st Team Development Squad next Weds 1 Sept - Fri 3 Sept (starting at 10.00 am). Sessions for Junior Girls will take place on Mon 6 Sept (2:00 pm) and Tues 7 Sept (9:00 am). If you have not already signed up and would like to do so, please contact jorw@felsted.org for more details.

Before attending pre-season training sessions, pupils are asked to return a negative test result using a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test at home. Further information regarding ordering or collecting home test kits is available [here](#).

We are in the process of producing the printed **Autumn Term Calendar**, which will be posted to parents at the start of term. In the meantime, please do visit the school website to view the online version: <https://www.felsted.org/parents/school-calendar>

The School minibus service will start running on Tuesday 7 September.

For parents' information, in line with Government guidance we would of course encourage those who are eligible for **vaccinations** to take up the opportunity, subject to medical advice where appropriate, although this is not a requirement for members of the school, and even those who have had a vaccination will still be required to follow the risk-mitigation in place at school, along with all other students.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you back at Felsted for the start of this new academic year!

Best wishes
George Masters