

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely since the start of term. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all students to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all pupils catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a pupil or cohort is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published on our website and is being sent to our governors.

<b>School reopening</b>	<p>For all pupils we are providing a full delivery of subjects taught according to our typical full timetable. Timings of the school day have been altered to allow phased entry and exit at key break periods and the end of day.</p> <p>Year 7 are in a separate bubble, with Year 8 and 9 to follow this week, now we have completed the rebuild of our Annexe.</p> <p>Key Stage 4 are in a separate bubble but will reduce to year groups once Year 8 and Year 9 are completed.</p> <p>We are compliant with the latest government guidance for reopening schools, with the key additional requirement that students wear masks in corridors and communal spaces to take account of our school context and building. We have published our full risk assessments on our website and have made appropriate adjustments for individuals where required, for example to take account of disability status.</p> <p>Intervention is happening after school for identified Year 11 to ensure they get the best results they can. Currently we are not operating any other after school activities or clubs</p>
<b>Attendance</b>	<p>Our average attendance at school for the first three weeks is 94%. This is the same level as average whole school attendance between September and March 2020 – pre COVID</p>
<b>Coverage of the curriculum</b>	<p>Within all subjects we are covering our full curriculum. This has been adjusted to support the development of the knowledge and skills</p>

	<p>following on from lock down; helping students cope with the COVID pandemic and addressing the key issues of the day such as the Climate Crisis, Race and Gender Inequalities.</p> <p>Where required to support compliance with government guidance, subjects have sequenced units that require less contact at the start of the year, e.g. PE and Athletics rather than contact sports.</p> <p>All subjects are using a mixture of techniques such as tests, quizzes and marking to assess where students are now with knowledge and skills and build on that. These are in line existing with existing teaching and learning, curriculum, and assessment policies.</p> <p>Year 11 will be assessed formally during Term 1 to support achievement at GCSE. Year7 will be undertaking CATS testing as is usual in Term 1 to help us support transition</p> <p>At Key Stage Three, students are all undertaking collaborative reading of bookings from the FHS reading list. Every child has their own book and reading is led by the class tutor. This supports our focus on whole school literacy but also is an evidence-based approach to support all students build on pre-lockdown skills. Similarly, we are intending to supply all Key Stage 4 students with revision guides as we have learnt from our previous practice that this supports students to make above national progress. Government catch up funds will be used to fund this.</p>
<p><b>Remote learning March - July 2020</b></p>	<p>During lockdown we were able to offer all students access to lessons remotely via Teams in Term 6 or live in school for Key Workers or Year 10 students during the same time. Our most Vulnerable students were directly contacted by staff twice weekly and contact was available for all students via email / "Teams" chat. We know that over time, above 95% of students engaged in the Show My Homework activities provided on a two weekly basis and where this was not the case, the primary barriers was lack of IT facilities.</p> <p>Many students accessed work via paper due to not having laptops / internet access. We addressed this issue by using school funds to purchase over 40 additional laptops. In the final week of term, we were able to access 5 laptops through the government's laptop scheme.</p>
<p><b>Remote learning in the future</b></p>	<p>We have developed clear plans for a range of scenarios, outline details are below:</p> <p><b>Full school closure:</b> We will continue to operate provision of student's usual timetables with lessons delivered remotely via Teams. Teachers will be available on Teams for at least 30 mins of the scheduled lesson to either deliver content, explain the resources being used (if not live) or address misconceptions after students have completed the work. We will intend to offer continued Key Worker in school provision if guidance allow.</p> <p><b>Partial Closure due to low staffing levels:</b> We will offer a published timetable for each year group delivered by subject specialists. Teachers will be available on Teams for at least 30 mins of the scheduled lesson to either deliver content, explain the resources being used (if not live) or address misconceptions after students have completed the work</p> <p><b>Partial Closure due to Tier 2 Lockdown:</b> This is in the event of a local lockdown as advised by local authorities. Each year group will be operated on two-week rotas. (Two weeks in school, two weeks remote learning) For those in school they would follow their usual timetable and come into school as normal for two weeks.</p> <p>For those at home, we would operate provision of student's usual timetables with lessons delivered remotely via Teams. Teachers will be available on Teams for at least 30 mins of the scheduled lesson to either deliver content, explain the resources being used (if not live) or</p>

	<p>address misconceptions after students have completed the work. We will intend to offer continued Key Worker in school provision if guidance allow across all weeks and year groups.</p> <p><b>Cohort isolation:</b> In school provision will continue for all non-affected groups. For groups in isolation will continue to operate provision of student’s usual timetables with lessons delivered remotely via Teams. Teachers will be available on Teams for at least 30 mins of the scheduled lesson to either deliver content, explain the resources being used (if not live) or address misconceptions after students have completed the work</p> <p><b>Individual isolation:</b> Work will continue to be available to individual students via Teams.</p> <p>We will hold parents’ eventing’s / events virtually for the foreseeable future, using Teams as the primary tool. We have just held our first Virtual Open Event which included a Q+A session with an increase of families taking part compared to lasts years in school event</p> <p>Any issues accessing remote learning should be reported via telephone to reception. We will also make provision for email contact via tutors / ACs. We are told that we will have access to an increased number of laptops from the government should we have a local lockdown</p>
<p><b>Mental health and wellbeing</b></p>	<p>Student care is at the heart of what we do at Fairfield. Our “We ARE Fairfield” curriculum has been adjusted to incorporate opportunities through discussion and activities in lessons that address mental health and wellbeing for students. Staff are available throughout the day for any student is having difficulties adjusting to new school routines or because of other issues related to COVID.</p>

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school’s and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Regards

Nick Lewis

Principal

**An International Academy**

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