



**Fairfield
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Achieving Excellence

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11th January 2021

Principal's Update 11th January: Government advice to Parents esp. Key Workers, Exams and Free School Meal Vouchers.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Key worker / Critical Worker Provision - changed government advice

Government advice on attendance at school for keyworker children has changed in the latest guidance that we received on Friday evening. The full guidance for parents can be found here [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The changed advice encourages parents of Keyworker children to keep them at home, "if they can". At Fairfield, we are committed to working with families to find the best solution for them but now we all need to be mindful of the new advice quoted below. If you are a key worker parent and you have booked a place at school this week and you decide your child can remain at home, please contact us and let us know.

*"Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but **parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can**"*

Exams

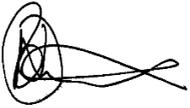
We have received a number of enquiries about when Year 11 may finish school and what assessments might look like this year (and when they will happen). Our current understanding is that the government and Ofqual, the exams regulator, will shortly start to consult on how GCSE grades will be awarded this year, but that process has not yet begun. In light of this, our advice to Year 11 students is to keep learning as hard as they have been. At this point, we are aware that assessments will be teacher led but have not been given any indication as to when that should take place and when that process will end. The safest advice is to consider that attendance of Year 11 might be required until the end of Term 6. In school we are very aware of the impact of this on our families and will share more information once we are provided with it.

Free School Meal Vouchers

On Friday, after school finished, I received advice from the Department of Education to say that during this lockdown we would be able to provide vouchers to families in receipt of Free School Meals and that the costs would be reimbursed to school. Advice is set to follow to school of how to reclaim these costs but in the meantime, we are processing the vouchers so that families will receive £30 to cover the first two weeks of this term, this will continue on an ongoing basis until students are able to return to school. If any family is having trouble obtaining food, please do let us know. There are several ways we can help.

Best wishes,

Nick Lewis



Principal

An International Academy

Principal: **Mr Nick Lewis**

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