



**Fairfield
High School**

Achieving Excellence

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Principal's Update 4th January: Update following Prime Minister's announcement about National Lockdown and school closures

Dear Parents and Carers,

When I wrote yesterday that the plans I had outlined "may well change", I did not expect to, yet again, be writing to you out of school hours to say they had changed so much in a day. In school we have spent the day setting up testing for students and preparing for Y11 to return. This will now be placed on hold.

For those that have not yet seen the Prime Minister's announcement, from tomorrow we enter a National Lockdown with clinically extremely vulnerable people asked to shield and others to remain at home. He has also said schools are closed for the rest of this term, at least, except for the children of Key Workers and Vulnerable students.

This announcement will have come as a shock to many, as only yesterday the Prime Minister was encouraging children to attend school and recently assured us that exams would go ahead.

The implications of this are that from tomorrow:

- 1) All lessons for all year groups will switch to remote learning for the foreseeable future. Remote education will be provided for Year 7 to Year 11 daily according to a student's usual timetable. We intend to start at 8.45 each day. Support is available for those with limited IT access.
- 2) Only vulnerable children and children of key workers that have pre-booked will be on site. Packed lunches will be available for all these students without charge, although you may wish to supply your own. Students should bring in an adequate supply of drinking water and appropriate winter clothing, including a raincoat or umbrella. We will switch to sending a weekly booking form as previously in Lockdown one. If your child is unwell and unable to attend Remote Learning or any in school provision, please let us know via reception or our absence line.
- 3) All exams are cancelled this year, although details are limited on this. Clearly the implications of this will mean Year 11 will need a lot of support to realise that the work they are completing could well be needed to provide the evidence we may need to award them grades. Ms Hooke will be leading the Tutor time for Year 11 tomorrow.

4) All staff at Fairfield that that are not required to maintain the delivery of in-school provision for Key Workers will remain at home and work remotely meaning we will have limited staffing in school and reduced capacity on reception.

Like in the March lockdown we will spend tomorrow digesting the real implications of today's announcement and be able to update you further, in due course, as details emerge. One thing we will want to focus on, as last time, is supporting our community's wellbeing.

Best wishes,

Nick Lewis
Principal

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Principal: **Mr Nick Lewis**

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