



**Fairfield
High School**

Achieving Excellence

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Fairfield High School – FHS

Update: Local COVID rates and testing; Prime minister's announcement on delayed unlocking and its impact on Fairfield for the rest of Term 6, including Prom and Year 6 Transition

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst there much to be pleased about in school and the weather remains lovely, following the prime minister's announcement, I find myself writing a letter that is promoting increased caution and the consequences of that on the school.

Local COVID rates and testing

I would like to start by sharing part of a briefing I have had from Bristol Local Authority regarding local COVID case rates.

"...we are currently seeing a sharp increase in infections, both in Bristol and across the country. Bristol's rate of infection is now 73 cases per 100,000 population. The England rate stands at 67 new cases per 100,000 population.

This rise is being driven, in the most part, by the effects of unlocking our society and the presence of the Delta variant in the city. As of 11 June, there were 158 cases of the B.1617 Delta variant in Bristol."

I have shared this because I want to you to consider two things.

1. If a student is unwell and displaying COVID symptoms, they should remain at home, self-isolate and get a PCR test via NHS Test and Trace. School should be told so that we can complete contact tracing.
2. Please ensure your family is taking full advantage of testing and that the results are reported to both NHS and us. We had over a thousand tests completed in the first week back in March. I am aware from school data that returns are now much fewer than 100 per week. I would encourage everyone to consider testing so that we can use all the facilities available to our school community to avoid having to send our students home in large groups to self-isolate.

These two actions are important controls in the schools COVID risk assessment but require your help to ensure they happen.

Prime Ministers announcement on delayed unlocking and its impact on Fairfield for the rest of Term 6

Whatever people's views on the prime minister's announcement, the delay to unlocking has had an impact on our plans for the rest of the term.

Sadly, the first casualty of that will be our Summer Gala on July 15th. This will no longer be able to go ahead and has been cancelled. That's a real disappointment to me personally as I was very much looking forward to having our community together, and watching our students perform for you but we are not able to proceed with the event.

Another casualty of the announcement will our planned Key Stage 3 Parents events, which were to be held live in school. These will no longer be able to go ahead as planned as we are not able to bring large groups of families in to school to mix within the current guidelines. We are extremely disappointed about this as staff at school crave the familiarity and connection that comes from meeting families face to face as much as families want to reconnect with staff. Further details on reporting arrangements will follow this letter.

There are two other events that we are also reviewing now and seeking further advice on: Prom for Year 11 and Transition for Year 6 students. Our current view is that both these events should be able to proceed, albeit in the planned revised formats. We are however seeking advice from our Trust and others to satisfy us that the events do not present an additional unacceptable risk to the school community. Parents and carers will be kept fully informed; these events remain in our calendar at the time of writing, and I am hopeful they will be able to happen.

Best wishes

Nick Lewis

Principal

An International Academy

Principal: **Mr Nick Lewis**

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