

New Forest Care Education

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been looking carefully at the revised guidance for school closures issued by the government yesterday afternoon. At this stage our school and New Forest Care's alternative provision such as OLC and Post 16 is to remain open to students and **will not close**.

However, current government guidance is clear that:

1. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.
2. School being open is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

The level to which we will be open will of course be subject to:

1. Staffing levels – number of staff off due to either COVID-19 and/or childcare issues caused by school closures.
2. Number of students potentially attending.
3. An outbreak of COVID-19 within our school or alternative provision.

Our focus over the last two days, supported by our Senior Leadership Team and fantastic team of teachers, instructors, support staff and pastoral staff has been to:

1. Get a clear picture of the impact on our staff of their own children's school closures on their child care.
2. What the implications and plans for the government's announcement of no exams for Year 11 students will mean for our students.
3. Make plans to keep school fully or partially open for as long as possible whilst continuing to create and upload resources onto our Virtual Learning Environment.

School & Alternative Provision Opening

Our current plans for the school and New Forest Care Alternative Provision (OLC, POST 16) is as follows:

1. To fully or partially open for the next two weeks leading up to Easter depending on staffing levels.
2. To close for the two weeks Easter holidays as per normal.
3. To re-evaluate the situation before the end of the Easter holidays based on the latest government guidance with a view to open as normal for the Summer term.

New Forest School, Fawley Road, Fawley, Southampton, SO45 1FJ **Tel** 023 8089 3629 **Email** education@newforestschool.co.uk
Web www.newforestschool.co.uk

Registered address: New Forest Care Ltd, West Shore House, West Street, Hythe, Southampton, SO45 6AA
Web www.newforestcare.com Registered in England No. 04228723

New Forest Care

Education



Decisions regarding whether we open fully or partially will need to be made on a daily basis due to the dynamic nature of the situation. We will continue to use the following as our main forms of communication:

- a. **SMS Message** to alert you if there are any changes to the school's/alternative provision's ability to open the next day
- b. **Updates to the school website & OLC/POST 16 Website** to indicate any form of partial or full closure with details of what this will entail.

School: <http://newforestschool.co.uk/about/coronavirus/>

OLC/POST 16: <http://newforestcareeducation.com/coronavirus/>

Online Survey

We will be sending a link to an online survey to parents and carers to help us gain a clear picture of which students will potentially attending the school or alternative provision. I would be very grateful if you could take the time to complete this short survey to help us with our strategic planning.

Ongoing, could I please ask Parents/Carers to make use of the education@newforestschool.co.uk email to alert us if your personal situation changes and your child is unable to attend informing us of the reason why your child is absent.

Exams

Year 11 exams will not take place, however the Department for Education and various exam bodies are currently working on guidance as to how students will be issued grades and we will update students and parents/carers as soon as we are aware of any procedures and arrangements regarding this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for your support of the school/alternative provision and for making sensible decisions regarding your children's attendance so we avoid any infection within our educational settings for as long as possible.

We would also like to publicly praise our whole staff team for the huge amount of extra work and planning they are putting in at this time so we are best able to support all of our students and their families at this difficult time.



Duncan Smith
Headteacher

New Forest School, Fawley Road, Fawley, Southampton, SO45 1FJ **Tel** 023 8089 3629 **Email** education@newforestschool.co.uk
Web www.newforestschool.co.uk

Registered address: New Forest Care Ltd, West Shore House, West Street, Hythe, Southampton, SO45 6AA
Web www.newforestcare.com Registered in England No. 04228723