

New Forest Care Education

17th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome Back and Thanks

Firstly, can I take this opportunity to thank all Parents and Carers for your support during the start of term so far and for the kind words and messages received from a number of you regarding both the lockdown period and the return to school from the summer holidays.

It has been wonderful to see the school back and operating in a more normal fashion, albeit with the necessary safeguards and restrictions in place. The education staff have been very excited about welcoming students back to school, there has been a lovely atmosphere around the school sites.

COVID-19 Update

Unfortunately, with regards to COVID-19, we are already starting to see some impact of the recent rise in cases, hampered by the difficulty in accessing tests in a timely or local fashion at present.

Included with this letter (and available on our website) is a document we have prepared to help parents/carers answer some of the common 'what do we do if' questions relating to COVID-19. This is based on the latest government guidance. I would be grateful if all parents/carers could take a moment to check this document.

As an extra precautionary step, we intend to begin taking staff and student temperatures on arrival at school from Monday 21st September. Should a member of staff or a student have a raised temperature we will isolate them for a short period and re-test before making a decision on next steps in conjunction with our Health Team.

My biggest concern at present is the growing number of education staff currently unable to attend work due to self-isolating pending a test result, either because they have symptoms, a member of their household has symptoms or they have been contacted by the Track and Trace service.

Unlike last term where it was possible to book a test within 24 hours and results were often back in a similar timeframe, staff are now struggling to find any tests locally or have been required to travel significant distances (for example Bath) to undertake a test. In addition, home testing kits seem to be slower to arrive and then results slower to return.

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This leads to a genuine potential for staffing levels to drop to a level where we might have to consider partial closures in order to maintain staff to student ratios and a safe learning environment.

Without wishing to scaremonger, I would much prefer to have a plan in place and have shared this so all parents/carers are aware of what the implications would be should we have to action this plan, potentially at short notice. Full details can be found below, if you have any questions having read this information then please speak to your child's tutor in the first instance.

Partial Closure Plan – Staffing Levels

Key points of partial closure plan:

1. Year 10 & Year 11 would remain in school full time due to examination & coursework requirements.
2. Partial Timetable would be bubble specific:
 - a. Key Stage 2
 - b. Fawley/Lunedale School Site
 - c. Totton School Site

This means only the site affected by staffing concerns would need to invoke partial closure.

3. Two phases are planned for Key Stage 3 to account different levels of potential staff absence.
4. School would make personal contact with parents via phone if plan has to be acted upon – the information would also be shared via email, text message and school website.
5. School staff would communicate with transport providers if plan needs to be invoked.
6. Any partial closure would be for the shortest amount of time possible.
7. Work will be provided to class groups working from home via our Virtual Learning Environment.

KEY STAGE 2

PARTIAL TIMETABLE KS2					
	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
KS2 1			HOME		
KS2 2					
KS2 3		HOME			HOME
KS2 4	HOME			HOME	

NB: KS2 1 Class would attend the OLC on Wednesday rather than undertake their transition visit to Fawley KS2

KEY STAGE 3: FAWLEY

PHASE 1

PARTIAL TIMETABLE FAWLEY					
	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
7.1	HOME				
7.2		HOME			
8.1			HOME		
8.2				HOME	
9.1					HOME

PHASE 2

PARTIAL TIMETABLE FAWLEY					
	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
7.1	HOME	HOME			
7.2		HOME	HOME		
8.1			HOME	HOME	
8.2				HOME	HOME
9.1	HOME				HOME

KEY STAGE 3: TOTTON

PHASE 1

PARTIAL TIMETABLE TOTTON					
	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
T7.1	HOME				
T7.2		HOME			
T8.1			HOME		
T9.1				HOME	
T9.2					HOME

PHASE 2

PARTIAL TIMETABLE TOTTON					
	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI
T7.1	HOME	HOME			
T7.2		HOME	HOME		
T8.1			HOME	HOME	
T9.1				HOME	HOME
T9.2	HOME				HOME

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As previously stated, my hope is by sharing this early with all parents, carers and school staff we can all be prepared and make contingency plans in the event that we have to make use of any form of partial closure, especially if at short notice.

Please speak to your child's tutor if you have any concerns or questions. They will either be able to answer them directly or share with the Senior Leadership Team if required.

As ever, thank you for your ongoing support of the school,

Kind regards,



Duncan Smith
Headteacher