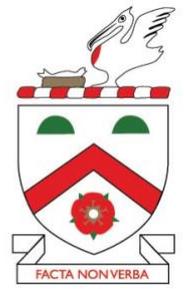


FRED LONGWORTH HIGH SCHOOL



Belonging, Engaging, Succeeding Together

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am sure you will all be aware that late yesterday evening the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown to combat the rising infection rates of Covid 19 and protect the NHS from becoming overwhelmed.

This lockdown includes the closure of school. **He announced that schools will remain closed until February half-term.** This letter is to provide you with a full update of what this means for our school and provision. It is important that you read this letter carefully. It aims to answer any questions that you may have about the weeks ahead.

Is school closed to all students?

School will be closed to the majority of pupils. However, from Wednesday 6th January it will be open from 8:45 am to 3pm for the following students:

- Vulnerable students.
- The children of key workers; however, we are prioritising places for students in Year 7 whose parents are both key workers, followed by students in this category who are in Year 8.

Vulnerable children and key worker children will not be taught normal lessons because teaching staff are delivering remote lessons. Instead, support staff in one of our IT suites will supervise the students in school whilst they access remote lessons. Through our earlier communications with parents, we have already identified the students who fall into both the vulnerable and key worker categories and these parents have been contacted separately to confirm your child's place in school during this period. Places are limited so if you do not need to send your child into school please contact us using the email address keyworkers@flhs.wigan.sch.uk.

Remote provision for students working from home.

Students should aim to follow as normal a school day as possible, this means following their normal timetable. A routine can prove beneficial to students and support them in the management of their time but we need to recognise that this may not always be practical, for both the students attending remote lessons and teachers delivering remotely. Given the circumstances of this sudden announcement, there will be a period of adjustment as we all struggle to balance our changing working patterns with our personal commitments. There will also be situations such as staff illness, which may impact on provision.

Effective remote provision also does not mean that students experience live lessons every lesson. Effective remote provision can be varied, there will be times when students watch a pre-recorded lesson; at other times, they may be asked to work independently. When students have scheduled live Teams lessons, their teachers will guide them through the work that needs to be completed and set

reasonable submission deadlines. Attendance registers will be taken for scheduled lessons and there is an expectation of full participation from all students.

Last term we trained all students on how to use the main features of Office 365, including Teams and email, both of which will be important channels of communications between staff and students. There are videos on the school website which can be used as a reminder of how to use the systems. The link is [here](#). If your child is struggling to access the online learning platforms because they have forgotten their password, contact the IT support desk in school ictsupport@flhs.wigan.sch.uk.

If your child is having difficulty accessing provision because they do not have access to a laptop or other suitable device, please contact Mr Whalley on WhalleyJ@flhs.wigan.sch.uk directly.

On Monday 11th January, your child's form tutor or a member of the year team will schedule a remote form session via Teams at 8:45 am. This is to help students organise their time effectively for the week ahead and to offer further support to students. We expect all students to attend.

What does the school closure mean for Year 11 and Year 10 Exams?

The Prime Minister suggested that some formal examinations in the Summer of 2021 would be cancelled. He did not say all exams would be cancelled. We are seeking further clarity on this and as soon as we know anything, we will let students and parents know as a priority. **Students in all exam classes should continue attending their timetabled lessons and study support sessions online.** It is sensible to assume a system of internal assessment will be put in place, which will then be used to inform teacher-assessed grades in the summer. Very shortly, we will inform you of the grades achieved by your child in the recent Year 11 mock examinations. These results are likely to form part of the evidence base that will inform the teacher assessed grades.

There are vocational exams still scheduled for the week commencing 11th January for both Year 10 and Year 11. At the time of writing, these exams are still going ahead but we will keep you updated on how this situation progresses.

What if my child usually accesses Free School Meals?

We are currently awaiting further guidance from the Government. As soon as we receive this we will be contacting all those who are eligible for Free School Meals. This will most likely be a voucher scheme.

What if my child needs further support throughout lockdown?

- Counselling and well-being services will be available for all students throughout lockdown
- Contact will be made with identified students and contact times scheduled
- Initial contact will be made to all students and those students in need of further support will receive weekly telephone calls from key pastoral staff.

What does the lockdown mean for your family?

The Government announced the following restrictions for everyone:

- You must not leave, or be outside of, your home except where necessary.
- You may leave the home to:
 - shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person.

- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home.
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one.
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse).
- attend education if you are a vulnerable child or the child of a critical worker.

This is very challenging news for all of us. As a Headteacher, and as a parent of a secondary aged child myself, I understand this situation from both sides; however, I am proud to say that a team of highly committed and dedicated professionals serve the students of Fred Longworth High School. They will continue to provide the best possible education they can during these difficult times. All I ask is that you bear with us; this is an ever-changing situation. Please do not hesitate to contact us by email on covid@flhs.wigan.sch.uk if you have any queries or if you need support in any way. As we receive further details, we will keep you and your child informed by email.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Davies
Headteacher