



18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Corona Virus - Daily Update

There remains no further news on the school closures that are being discussed in the press and so we continue to work in school to deliver the best education and service we can in these extraordinary times. Whilst work is now underway in the event of school closures, for now we continue to consider in-school actions.

Yesterday some 180 students were absent from school. Staffing levels are unaffected for now. However this is liable to change as self-isolation measures begin to take hold and certainly we are instructing some staff to self-isolate from this weekend for their own wellbeing. There is no suggestion that these staff are unwell, but we want to ensure that remains the case. These are the staff who are amongst the vulnerable groups discussed in the media. As attendance wanes it may be necessary to condense classes and to operate a skeleton service - where safe supervision takes precedence over maintaining an education. We may need to use larger venues to contain 2 classes at a time for example. This is challenging given the lack of larger venues and a desire to limit mass gatherings.

Assemblies

This week we have held assemblies to prepare girls for a possible school closure, what that might look like and how we would work remotely to try and maintain their education. These will be the last assemblies we will hold to avoid mass gatherings.

Break/Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes and break times are the other main mass gatherings during the school day. As of next week...

Lunchtimes. The canteen will of course remain fully open whilst staffing permits. The main school hall and dining area will close and students should eat in tutor bases. Students who have a tutor base in a Science lab will use Room 410. We will stagger the queues to again reduce mass gathering:

Year 7	- 12.25
Year 8	- 12.35
Year 9	- 12.45
Year 10	- 12.55
Year 11	- 13.05
Sixth Form	- 13.15

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Breaktime is a much shorter timeframe and so an extended break time is the only real solution. Break will run from 10.55am - 11.25am:

Years 7/8/9 at 10.55am.

Years 10/11/12/13 at 11.10am.

CCF (Combined Cadet Force)

This happens on Friday evenings after school but has been cancelled - an order! Through to the end of April for now.

School Closures

Following our meeting last night and our preparations for a possible closedown, it is important to manage parental expectation. Whilst it is our intention to work remotely as far as is possible and to try and protect the girls education, it should be noted that technology can let us all down at times and the internet nationally may prove incapable of coping with the whole nation working from home! Many staff themselves are parents and will have their own children at home to contend with, and so may need to step away from workstations to deal with an issue at home. It will not be perfect, indeed it will be far from it, but it will be our best efforts under the circumstances, because our girls deserve nothing less.

Communication

It is likely that there will be further news/developments and we will continue to communicate with parents as necessary. Please do be aware though that as the current situation develops it is likely that we will be subject to staff shortages too and that therefore phone calls and emails may not be responded to as quickly as normal. At all times we will try to be pro-active in our communication.

May I take this opportunity to thank those parents who have made contact at this time with messages of thanks and support and to thank the staff here at FSG, for their calm, measured and reassuring response to the current crisis and for being such fantastic role models to our girls - and your daughters.

Yours sincerely



Mr Mark Lester
Principal