



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

BUCKINGHAM ROAD
WINSLOW
MK18 3GH
(01296) 711853

WEB: WWW.SIRTHOMASFREMANLE.ORG

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to update you again regarding Coronavirus. We currently have 14 staff self-isolating for the next 14 days. This puts a significant strain on the school and my ability to lead the school safely. With that in mind, I will be directing Year 9 and Year 12 students to work from home from Wednesday 18th March until the Easter Break. I fully appreciate that this will bring a number of family challenges, but currently I cannot fulfil my duty of keeping children safe. Work for students will appear on our school website throughout today under the *Parent section*. Year 12 students are in a position to manage their workload more independently and can email their teachers at any time during the school day.

If staff numbers continue to decrease at the current rate, I will be forced to implement further closures to the school. If we find ourselves in this position then the year groups will be directed to work from home in the following order: 10, 8, 13, 7 & 11. Due to the current advice of self-isolation for 14 days, it is unlikely that students would return prior to the Easter Break. We will endeavour not to send whole year groups home during the school day. If we find ourselves in this position we will accommodate the year group in the hall and students will complete work under the guidance of the Senior Leadership Team. Parents will then be informed and the year group will be directed to remain at home from the following day until the Easter Break. Our ability to safely manage the site will be reviewed daily.

If we find ourselves in a full closure under direction from the Government then staff will be available via email during the normal school hours of 8:30 until 3:30 to support students. I have asked teaching staff to prioritise their time with Year 11 and Year 13 students due to their impending examinations. If the need arises, work will be made available for all year groups under the *Parent section* of the school website. Students can also access a number of websites that can be used to support their learning at this difficult time. For example, BBC Bitesize (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z4kw2hv>) offers a huge range of subjects and content, all of which are suitable for students in Years 7, 8 & 9. Year 11 students have access to GCSE POD and GCSE Bitesize which can be found at this link (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>). It provides subject specific revision for GCSE students in Year 10 and Year 11. The following link offers a number of web based learning platforms:

<https://www.teachertoolkit.co.uk/2020/03/15/how-to-teach-online/>



The unprecedented nature of what society faces, including that of your child's learning means that the work they complete at home will not be as it would be in school and we appreciate your support with this.

I also wanted to reassure the Year 11 GCSE Art students that their exam will go ahead on Thursday and Friday this week, even if the school is instructed to close by the Government. With a small cohort, we can manage this exam and feel it only fair to the students that they can complete this course with minimum disruption.

As the timescale of this situation is unknown, I am unable to say which students will be returning immediately after the Easter Break. I will update you in the coming weeks regarding our specific position. This decision will be based around Government directives and my ability to safely manage the school site.

If I can remind you that the new advice from the Government is that if you or a family member develops any symptoms of Coronavirus then the entire household must isolate for 14 days. This is especially important and will help reduce the spread of the virus.

I appreciate there is a lot of information in this letter so to summarise:

- Year 9 and Year 12 to work from home from Wednesday 18th March until the end of the Easter break
- Subsequent Year groups may follow depending on my ability to lead the site safely in the following order: 10, 8, 13, 7 & 11- this will be reviewed daily.
- Work will be available on the website under the *Parent Section*.
- Teachers will be available during working hours if there is a full school closure.
- GCSE Art Exam on Thursday 19th March and Friday 20th March will go ahead.
- Check the school website and Facebook page for regular updates regarding return to school.

Whilst school is an important part of your child's life, it is not more important than their health and the health of those around them. I fully appreciate family concerns regarding vulnerable and unwell family members; the measures we are taking and plan to take are to reduce the risks to vulnerable family members of students and staff. We hope that you all stay healthy and as safe as possible at this unnerving time and we look forward to having a full school as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Neale Pledger
Headteacher

