



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I just wanted to take time to thank you all for your amazing support and kind offers of help. I have been truly humbled by everything you have offered and I cannot thank you enough. I am currently unable to reply to each of you individually, but when a calmer time returns, I will. Thank you.

The list of Key Workers has finally been released and we can now make more certain plans. I would like to draw attention to the Government's position where it states:

And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

The Government go on to say:

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Whilst STFS will support families of Key Workers where it can, I also need to consider my own staff, who are also Key Workers and have children, and are trying to minimise risks to their own families. I am sure you understand the balancing act we face in school. With this in mind, I urge you to consider only sending your child in if it is absolutely necessary. According to the NSPCC, children aged 12 and over should be mature enough to be left alone at home. Again, before making your decision please consider this information carefully.

Families of those attending next week will be contacted separately to confirm their place. We will commence our opening to these students from Tuesday 24th March at 8:30. Students attending will need to wear school uniform and bring the correct equipment and PE kit for each day. Our normal behaviour expectations remain and we expect all students to follow this. We will, where possible, support the students in following the Government guidance on social distancing.

With food suppliers struggling, can I request that if your child is not in receipt of Free School Meals and they have a confirmed place in school next week, that you send them with a packed lunch. As a school we will need to prioritise FSM students of Key Workers. I appreciate that packed lunches will not be easy at this time due to low stocks, but it will help our catering team to manage the FSM students both in and out of school.



The next big announcement from the Government is scheduled for today and it relates to GCSE and A-Level qualifications. I will communicate a summary of the announcement on Monday with all parents and students in Years 11 and 13. I will keep you all updated in the coming weeks with any further announcements.

Finally, please follow Government advice and stay healthy. Look after yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely

Neale Pledger
Headteacher

