



# SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Headteacher's Update

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. I cannot thank you enough for your continued support at this time. If this pandemic teaches us one thing, hopefully it will be to maintain our resilience, appreciation and our gumption. I love Thursday evenings and going out to clap for key workers: it helps to re-align what we value and what is important. At this time, the most important thing is our health and well-being; as we continue to adapt to these strange times, and finding new challenges each day to overcome, this is more evident than ever before.

Hopefully, Microsoft Teams is working for the students. As I said previously, we can't replicate the classroom, so we hope that this gives the students some kind of 'normal'. I just wanted to affirm that you do not need to be rigidly following your child's regular school timetable in order to try and replicate a typical school day. I do believe in the importance of structure and organisation, but six sessions a day is not a realistic or fair expectation of your child. A student's workload can quickly become overwhelming and unmanageable if there is too much pressure. This invariably leads to stress at a time when things are stressful enough. For this reason, we continue to recommend approximately 3 hours of school work and encourage flexibility within this. Please do remember that you can contact individual teachers directly or your child's form tutor if you have any concerns. All staff emails are available on the school website: <https://www.sirthomasfremantle.org/page/?title=Staff+list&pid=32>

I fully appreciate how parents and carers are trying to juggle their own work commitments, care for their families and support their child's learning; to manage this is no mean feat.

I also know this pressure is increased for single parent families and families with a number of siblings. Just remind yourself that there are no correct answers or pathways through this time. We are all facing this for the first time and because you may do things differently, it doesn't mean it is wrong. You are all doing a great job in steadying the chaos around your child's life.

We still have no news of a return to school or what a return would look like. Unfortunately, we do not receive any advanced notice of decisions that affect schools. However, I want to assure you that STFS will be prepared when schools are given the green light. It may well be "back to school", but not as we know it. I will, of course, keep you informed of our plan as and when the need arises. I am sure you will appreciate that the situation is changing regularly and will involve a significant modification to the curriculum, timetable and daily routines at school.



I also just wanted to update you on the 3D printers that we temporarily donated. We were informed recently that they have contributed to the making of 10,000 NHS visors. This is such an amazing effort and shows how productive communities can be working together.

Finally, please take care of yourselves and I genuinely cannot wait until we can get everyone safely back to school.

Best wishes,

Neale Pledger  
Headteacher, who is tired of moaning at his own children.

