



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JMK/SXG

6 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

## School Update

I apologise for contacting you again so soon after my letter regarding remote learning and Covid-19 testing, but following the latest Government announcement on Monday 4 January 2021, I wanted to confirm the educational arrangements in place at William Farr School.

On Monday 4 January 2021, the Prime Minister announced that all schools would close immediately until Friday 12 February 2021 (half term) following the introduction of a national lockdown. This means that **all students should now remain at home**, except those students whose parents are critical workers, and vulnerable children who are eligible to attend school if parents so wish.

Remote education is now being provided for all students. Further details on how to access remote education can be found in my letter (*saved on the school website under Covid Correspondence*) dated 4 January 2021. We are aiming to maintain a full timetable for students, although we are aware that some students may have difficulty in completing all of the work set. Students should do their best and if you have any concerns, then please contact the school for advice. I would like to thank you in advance for the support you are giving your child with their home learning.

If you are a critical worker or your child is classed as vulnerable, they are eligible to attend school and access full-time education should you wish them to do so. However, it is your decision whether to keep your child at home. These children will access remote learning in school in line with other students studying at home. If you wish your child to attend school, please email [wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk).

The link below provides the criteria for students whose parents are critical workers and vulnerable children:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If your child is attending school, they should wear full school uniform. They should either walk, cycle or be transported by car/taxi to avoid mixing year-group bubbles. As a last resort, transport by school bus is still available and buses are running at the normal times. If your child is travelling by school bus, they should maintain social distancing and wear a face covering. The Local Authority has just informed me that if your child is travelling by school bus from Monday 11 January 2021, you will need to [complete the Request school transport form](#).

For further information on school buses, please visit <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport/covid-19-information-school-transport>

If your child is attending school, please note that from Monday 11 January 2021, the canteen is temporarily closed. They will, therefore, need to bring in a packed lunch. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, you will receive a separate letter about this confirming arrangements.

The School Uniform Shop is also temporarily closed due to the lockdown. For any queries about purchasing school uniform, please email [wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk).

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We are amending our reporting schedule for this half term. Staff are now writing reports for Year 11 students based on their progress during the Autumn term. We will notify parents of Year 11 students when these reports are ready. The Year 10 Parents' Evening will be held on Wednesday 20 January 2021 and the Year 9 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 2 February 2021. Both Parents' Evenings will be held remotely, with further information on how to book an appointment emailed shortly.

Despite the closure of schools, I am pleased to say that we have had confirmation that the examinations scheduled for January will go ahead and this will involve a small number of students in Year 10 and Year 11. The Year 10 Creative iMedia examination (Pre-Production Skills) will be held on the afternoon of Monday 11 January, starting at 1pm. The Year 11 Business and Enterprise examination (Enterprise and Marketing Concepts) will be held on the morning of Wednesday 13 January, starting at 9am.

We are very aware of the uncertainty that the announcement from the Government regarding examinations may have caused Year 11 and Year 13 students. We understand that Ofqual (regulatory body) are working with the Government to decide what the arrangements will be for the awarding of grades in GCSEs and A Levels this summer. Please be reassured that the school will implement whatever system is decided by the Government in a fair and robust way. It is important that Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to apply themselves to their studies. They should complete their remote learning and keep up to date with the work being set. We will, of course, notify parents when the school has received further information.

If your child is in Year 11, information on applying to the Sixth Form will be released by the end of January.

Thank you to those parents who have returned the consent form giving permission for their child to take part in the NHS lateral flow testing programme to detect asymptomatic Covid-19 cases. A testing schedule is currently being produced with staff and students of critical workers and those classed as vulnerable, who are attending school, to be tested first. Parents of these students will be contacted in due course. Other students will be tested upon their return to school. If you would still like to give consent for your child to participate in the tests, please complete the electronic consent form below:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FwG0COlocEGBmf2h6ue\\_KRFVxS5dR6FMt9DKisKbn\\_NUQUFERlo3WVfVU1JBMUhrTEZNRVRKOUSzNy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FwG0COlocEGBmf2h6ue_KRFVxS5dR6FMt9DKisKbn_NUQUFERlo3WVfVU1JBMUhrTEZNRVRKOUSzNy4u)

I understand the significant family pressures placed upon you at this time to manage work, home life and home learning. We are continually looking at ways we can support the wellbeing of families. On the VLE, under the Care and Guidance Student Welfare section, there are some excellent resources on dealing with the impact of coronavirus on mental health and wellbeing. The links below may also be of use to parents and students:

Headspace App

General anxiety for young people:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/conditions/anxiety/>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/coping-coronavirus-guide-young-people>

Parenting and looking after ourselves as adults:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/parenting-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

If your child is struggling with their mental health or you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact their respective Head of Year during school hours. To report safeguarding issues out of school hours, please contact **Lincolnshire Children's Services on 01522 782111**. Student welfare sessions will continue to operate remotely in school via Teams for those students receiving welfare support.



Please remember our offer to assist families suffering from financial hardship continues. If you would like any additional support to access food and care parcels, please contact Mrs Bates (Assistant Headteacher) in confidence, via her email: [h.bates@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:h.bates@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk).

Finally, can I express my sincere thanks to you in all that you are doing to support your child's education and wellbeing. If you have any questions or need further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch via our school email address [wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk).

I will, of course, keep you updated on any further developments as and when they occur.

I wish you and your family good health and all good wishes for 2021.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Knowler'.

**Jonathan Knowler**  
**Headteacher**