



Budges Gardens, Wokingham, RG40 1PX

Tel: (0118) 334 1510

5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Once again this has been a long and exceptionally busy Spring Term. In addition to the usual bespoke provision, we have included Year 11 mock exams, a full week of work experience for our Year 10 and 11 pupils, Year 11 mock interviews, annual reports to parents and a very successful, well attended Parents' Evening in place of the Spring 2 Education Reviews. Throw into the mix a snow day and a mini heatwave, and that just about sums up our term.

For me a particular highlight of this term has been our focus on the development of "Cultural Capital", with staff providing a diverse range of enrichment opportunities to add breadth to all our pupils' school experience. The opportunities are really too extensive to list in full but I would just mention a few highlights. St Giles' Trust have come to Foundry for a 6 week series of talks and discussions with two groups of secondary pupils focusing on criminal exploitation issues. We also had a theatre production of "Tough Love" by the company Alter Ego and a talk by the Thames Valley Disability Team. Primary pupils have been visiting the Thames Valley Adventure Playground for a session every Thursday to develop their social skills as well as to have the opportunity for some strenuous physical exercise. Amongst the educational trips supporting the curriculum, pupils have been up to London to The Dickens Museum to support English Literature and to see the cultural landmarks of our capital city as part of Travel and Tourism. Just this week there has been a very successful and interesting educational visit to Windsor Castle to support the study of History and an understanding of our heritage. Sporting opportunities continue with boxing, golf, gym workouts and pool.

Things never stand still at Foundry, so let me update you on our pupil and staff changes this term. We have welcomed three new pupils into the primary classroom and three more into our secondary alternative provision as well as 9 new pupils receiving support from the Medical / Vulnerable programme. During the term, 3 secondary pupils have left us and we have said goodbye to one primary pupil who has moved on to special school. We wish all these pupils all the best for the future.

Our staffing position looks equally good with just one staff member leaving us and only temporarily: Amy Ince-Gooding from the Behaviour Outreach Team now begins her maternity leave. After Easter we are joined by Lydia Southan who is taking on the Behaviour Outreach maternity cover from Amy and Carol Miller joins our team of Tutors. We have also appointed several new colleagues to start with us in September and I will write about these in next term's newsletter.

With such a late Easter weekend, we have just a few weeks before the main block of GCSEs start, with the first of the big exams that affects most pupils, English Language, on 1<sup>st</sup> May. I would urge all our Year 11 pupils to use the short time that remains wisely for revision. Arrangements have been made for some additional revision sessions in College during the second week of the Easter holiday. I am delighted that so many of our Year 11 pupils have signed up to take advantage of these additional sessions and I do hope our pupils will honour their commitment as the staff have been prepared to give up part of their much needed holiday to support this programme. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their willingness to go above and beyond for our pupils.



Budges Gardens, Wokingham, RG40 1PX

Tel: (0118) 334 1510

Parents / carers of pupils in Year 11 should already have received their child's exam. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Exams Officer, Victoria Myers. You will receive separate notification of any study leave arrangements and revision sessions early in the summer term.

You can further support your child through this final phase by promoting good health and wellbeing and taking an interest in their revision activities. There are many good resources available online and the pupils have other suitable subject specific revision aids to work from.

As seems to have become tradition, the school timetable may change for the start of the new term as we have to work around exam arrangements. We will endeavour to keep any disruption to a minimum and will keep you fully informed. As always, as the weather improves, we hope to be able to incorporate some additional offsite enrichment activities into the curriculum.

I have also included with this letter the finalised term dates for the academic year 2019-20 for your information.

Wokingham Borough Council are currently reviewing early help and preventative services across the borough in order to ascertain how well they work together as a partnership. To this end, they are seeking the views of parents and carers on their experience of early help support. They have asked that I circulate the link to you and ask if you would complete the survey by 30<sup>th</sup> April.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T3MYTWG>

The Summer Term begins on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April and you should note that Foundry College will be closed to all on Monday 6th May for the Bank Holiday. Foundry College Admin will be closed during the Easter holiday so any messages left by email or phone will be dealt with after 23rd April.

All that remains is for me to wish you a lovely Easter break.

With warmest wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Blundell".

**Jay Blundell**  
**Headteacher**

Enc. Term Dates 2019 – 2020