



Budges Gardens, Wokingham, RG40 1PX
Tel: (0118) 334 1510

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: COVID-19

Following the most recent briefings from the Prime Minister, and after discussion with the Local Authority, I am writing to advise you that **Foundry College will remain open for all our students** for the forthcoming 2 weeks until the natural end of term. This decision is made on the basis that our students are vulnerable in respect of having an Education, Health and Care Plan, an assigned social worker or by virtue of their behaviour choices. Clarity is being sought over the expectation that the College will also be open during the Easter holidays for children of Key Workers and I will update you on this position as and when I have a clearer understanding.

At the moment staff self-isolation is minimal, however I still anticipate that we will have significant staff absence over the coming weeks. The self-isolation of students is also quite low at this point, but is obviously also subject to unpredictable variation. I have to say I have been very encouraged by the number of our students who have personally expressed a desire for Foundry College to remain open so that they can continue to attend.

Ongoing education provision will continue for all those students at home in self-isolation as outlined in my previous letter. I would ask you to continue to follow Public Health England guidance regarding self-isolation and to note that it is for the duration of 14 days. If you decide to keep your child at home, please ensure you advise us that your son/daughter is in "self-isolation" so that accurate registers can be maintained and we will not then expect to hear from you daily.

Our focus with Year 11 is to complete assessment work such that we are able to evidence the best possible standards should we be asked to support teacher assessment. It is worth noting that some courses that our students are doing can still be accredited because they are based on internal assessments and as I write this, we have four students sitting their Business Studies exam! We are also reviewing the Functional Skills accreditations in English and Maths, as we want our students to have the best possible springboard into life beyond Foundry. Ongoing careers advice and guidance is also available. The planned Easter revision week is obviously no longer relevant and so has been cancelled, but thank you to all who had responded so positively to this opportunity. For students in all other year groups, continuity of their curriculum pathways remains the focus.

To enable us to plan for learning and make the necessary transport and catering arrangements for next week, please could I ask you to contact the College as soon as possible today either to confirm that your son/daughter will be attending as normal or that you plan to self-isolate your son/daughter with effect from Monday 23rd March for 14 days.

Thank you for your on-going support and understanding during these very strange and anxious times. We will continue to prioritise the health and welfare of our students and our staff whilst being mindful of our ambition to maintain the best possible education provision.

Warmest wishes,

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

Jay Blundell
Headteacher

It takes commitment to change lives
Headteacher: Miss Jay Blundell