



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

28th August 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Start of Term Arrangements

It really is hard to believe that the summer break is almost over, but I hope this letter finds you and your family well and having enjoyed a relaxing summer of some sort. School re-opening, and the expectation that all students will return to school full time in September, has been high profile in the press for some time now and much guidance has been offered to schools to assist them in making the necessary arrangements.

Foundry College is committed to continuing to support the education, health and wellbeing of all our students and to ensuring that our school premises remain as Covid-secure as possible. This is only possible with the full and continuous co-operation of all our community – students, parents/carers, staff and visitors. Much planning has taken place since last I wrote to you and I enclose with this letter the revised Guidance Protocol for Parents and Students which I would be grateful if you could go through carefully with your child.

It is possible that your child, another child or staff member may be taken ill whilst at school. It is imperative that we are able to contact you immediately, should we have any concerns regarding your child's health and also that we are fully aware of any health conditions they may already have. In the event that someone is sent home sick under these circumstances, we will follow national guidance with regards to premises cleaning, Covid-19 testing, self-isolation, track and trace.

We must prepare for all eventualities, including the possibility of further directed national closure or local lockdown. I would anticipate that in either event, Foundry College will remain open to children of Key Workers, children with EHCPs and children who are deemed vulnerable. Should this occur, it is essential that we are able to contact you quickly to confirm the necessary arrangements for your child. We may have to prioritise the offer of onsite provision based on staffing availability and to meet any specified criteria.

We plan to keep the Foundry experience as 'normal' as possible for all by resuming the quality teaching of a broad and balanced curriculum. Teaching will be in small groups within classrooms where a high level of hygiene is maintained through regular cleaning between lessons, the avoidance of shared resources wherever possible and encouraging meticulous personal hygiene practices (hand washing, sanitizing, sneezing – catch it / bin it / kill it). It is also important for our students' health and wellbeing that sporting and recreational activities are included within their curriculum, and this includes offsite activities which we were not permitted to do last term. In addition to the usual risk assessment of these activities, all offsite venues will be thoroughly risk assessed for their Covid-19 precautionary practices.

The matter of face coverings remains a topic of some confusion, with mixed messages about where and when they must be worn, and by whom. At the time of writing, there is no compulsion for students of any age, or staff, to wear a face covering whilst at school or on school transport, although students travelling on public transport to get to and from school are required to wear a suitable face covering for the journey. If any student or staff member wishes to wear a face covering, this is of course permitted but the article of choice must not be offensive in design. Should the Government guidance on this change, we will of course adhere to the changes in a timely manner.

It takes commitment to change lives
Headteacher: Miss Jay Blundell



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It has been and will continue to be a very challenging time for us all. We do not underestimate the worries and anxieties that have developed in young people over the past term. I wrote to you in July about 'Kooth', a digital counselling and emotional well-being service for young people aged 11-18. Posters and cards promoting the facilities of Kooth will be displayed around the college and staff may discuss its services with students if appropriate.

A word on our Brambles Development... When our students return on **Wednesday 2nd September**, the temporary Reception will still be operational as the building work for the new Administration and Reception area is not yet complete. Due to the on-going work, there will be parts of the premises that remain fenced off and out of bounds. We will now have the additional space of the refurbished corridor and classrooms that were 'Old Foundry' and all the necessary health and safety checks have been carried out on the parts of the building that will be in use. Thank goodness for the additional space!

We see our relationship with you, the parents/carers, as key to the successful progress of your child, our student, and we would wish to retain the excellent connections that we have with you. We encourage you to continue to communicate with us regularly over all matters relating to your child's education and wellbeing. However, we must continue to restrict visitors on site so for the time being, we will continue with virtual meetings through TEAMS and communication by phone or email. If a face to face meeting is deemed necessary or beneficial, it will take place outside of the typical school day wherever possible.

Despite the many weeks, days and hours of effective and creative home learning that have taken place since March, I am sure you are keen for your child to return to the routine of school. Attendance at school is a requirement for all children of compulsory school age and good attendance remains a high priority at Foundry College. From the start of term, attendance will once again be closely monitored and we will work with the Education Welfare Service to address any difficulties should they present.

So that we are suitably prepared for all eventualities, we will be contacting you over the coming few days to check your emergency contact details, confirm your child's lunch and travel arrangements and to conduct a risk assessment of your child's needs.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any further specific support we may be able to help with.

With warmest wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Blundell", written in a cursive style.

Jay Blundell
Headteacher