



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

18th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Start of Term Update and Contingency Arrangements

Thank you for your continued support in prioritising the education of your child and helping us to get all our students back into college safely for the start of the new academic year. The students have been amazing and the majority have settled back into the routine of learning very comfortably. We continue in our commitment to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of the whole Foundry College community. It is essential that we all continue to follow public health guidelines and we must rely on you to encourage your children to do the same, both in college and at home.

From my letter dated 28th August, you will already be aware of the steps that we have put in place to ensure the safe return to college of all our students. We imagine that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure that students catch up with any missed learning as well as what will happen if a student or student is asked to stay at home in the days, weeks or months to come.

In summary:

College re-opening	The normal college day is in operation for all students with the usual staggered start and end times for primary and secondary students. All students are offered their full entitlement of 25 hours, but part time packages are an option when deemed necessary.
Attendance	The onsite students' attendance figure from 2-18 th September of term is: 87.5% This is a very encouraging picture.
The curriculum	The normal highly personalised curriculum is being delivered. In addition, all secondary students have two daily mentor support sessions.
Home learning March - July 2020	Home learning was delivered by 1:1 face to face timetabled sessions through Microsoft TEAMS. Paper-based resources were delivered to students at home where necessary. Levels of engagement were good.
Home learning in the future	It is not anticipated that Foundry College will be forced to close due to the nature of the provision. In the event of partial closure, for those students not offered a place due to risk assessment prioritisation, home learning and pastoral support will resume immediately through Microsoft TEAMS. Where students do not have access to the necessary IT, support will be provided.
Mental health and wellbeing	Pastoral support for students is a daily priority. Details of additional support is available around the College and on the website. Eg 'Kooth'

We do not know what the future holds so we must plan for a further period of lockdown and hope that it doesn't happen. It is imperative that you keep us fully and promptly informed of any Covid-19 related health issues in your household: anyone displaying symptoms or being tested, along with the subsequent results of the test.

It takes commitment to change lives
Headteacher: Miss Jay Blundell



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It is possible that your child, another child or staff member may be taken ill with Covid-19 symptoms whilst at college so we must be able to contact you immediately. In the event that someone is sent home under these circumstances, we will follow national guidance with regards reporting cases, Covid-19 testing, self-isolation, track and trace and premises cleaning.

Whilst I do not currently require students and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas, I do strongly advise that those travelling in college transport should wear a face covering for the duration of their time in the bus and hands must be sanitised before getting into the bus. If any student or staff member wishes to wear a face covering whilst in College, 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 is disappointing that we must continue to restrict visitors on site but I have been encouraged that it does not seem to have become a barrier to ongoing good communication between the College and our students' parents/carers. We encourage you to continue to communicate with us regularly over all matters relating to your child's education, health and wellbeing.

Such as is normal practice at the start of a new academic year, we are currently updating all our students' details. If you have haven't already had one, please expect a call from us to check your emergency contact details (a minimum of two contacts are required), your child's health record, lunch and travel arrangements and to conduct a risk assessment of your child's needs.

I will write to you regularly in order to keep you fully informed of developments as they unfold. This, and my other general letters in relation to Covid-19, will be published on our website for easy reference and are also sent to our staff and management committee for their information.

Thank you again for your continuing and invaluable support in these challenging times. If we all follow the guidance, then hopefully we can avoid another lockdown and continue to provide an education for Wokingham's children.

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".

Jay Blundell
Headteacher