

January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Start of Term Arrangements – January 2022

It really is hard to believe that we are now in 2022, but Happy New Year to you all!

Foundry College is committed to continuing to support the education, health and wellbeing of all our pupils 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 – pupils, parents/carers, staff and visitors. Much planning has taken place and I have attached a hyperlink to the revised [Guidance Protocol for Parents and Pupils](#) (please click on this link to access the details) 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. If someone within the household does test positive for Covid-19 then please ensure that you have read the [guidance to see how you can keep the rest of the household safe](#) (please click to read).

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 pupils' health and wellbeing that sporting and recreational activities are included within their curriculum, and this includes offsite activities. In addition to the usual risk assessment of these activities, all offsite venues will be thoroughly risk assessed for their Covid-19 precautionary practices.

At the time of writing, the guidance on face coverings is that all pupils in Years 7-11 are advised to wear a face covering whilst at school, this is within communal areas and inside of classrooms as well as when travelling to and from school in private hire vehicles. Should the Government guidance on this change, we will of course adhere to the changes in a timely manner.

We see our relationship with you, the parents/carers, as key to the successful progress of your child, our pupil, 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. 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.

IGCSE Examinations

On Monday 10th & 17th January the Year 11 pupils will be taking their IGCSE's and have a Mathematics exam. All Year 11 pupils taking the exam are expected to attend school between 8:30-8:45am in order to be fully prepared for the exam to start at 9:00am, these times are externally set and we must adhere to them. These examinations are set for two hours and upon completion of the exam pupils are authorised to return home as 'study leave'. In order for this to happen we require an email by Friday 7th January from their parent expressing that they wish to complete their study leave on these days. If we do not receive this email then the normal timetabled lessons will be put into place.

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

Iain Thomas
Headteacher