



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
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Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

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Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your support during a frenetic start to the new term. Following the announcement of a third lockdown on Monday evening, I wanted to update you on some key information.

Whilst we are obviously disappointed that we cannot teach students face to face in school, the national picture of COVID-19 cases and increased risk with the new variant mean it is right that we are only open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable students until cases reduce substantially.

We are determined that all Fitzharrys students get the best possible education in the circumstances. Our staff have been working hard all week to plan and deliver provision across the term ahead. Some of the key details are as follows:

Remote Learning

Despite the school being closed for most students, we are very much open in a virtual sense for all students working from home. The remote learning provision has been very positive this week. The use of Teams and E-Praise has been very effective. Students have engaged well with the provision, and staff have been working hard to deliver a range of live and pre-recorded lessons.

Whilst this has been a strong start, we aim to enhance our remote provision further. Ms Corley will be leading on this and will be writing to you early next week with details including links, guides, and practical hints for managing remote learning at home. These guides will also appear on the school website at the following location: [Remote Learning \(fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk\)](https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/Remote-Learning) There will also be guidance on homework expectations. For next week we will not be setting homework for key stage 3 students (years 7, 8 and 9) as they adjust to remote learning and live lessons. Key stage 4 and 5 students will receive homework tasks but will submit them digitally. Details on how to do this will be included in communication next week.

We know remote learning can be a challenge and all our teachers are planning lessons carefully to ensure they are accessible, interesting, challenging and engaging. One key reminder is to ensure that you are registered on E-Praise to link to your child's account. This will allow you to view what has been set each day and support your child in their work.

Digital access

Whilst remote learning is taking place, we understand that accessing this may be problematic for some students. This can be due to issues with internet connection, mobile data, or digital devices. The school has a range of support in place to help those who are struggling in one of these areas. Please email the school with details of any problems you are having; we will endeavour to help solve any issues as quickly as we can.

Book Collection

Whilst students are working from home much of their work submission will be done online. However, in lessons work will continue to be completed in exercise books and folders. At the end of term 2 many students' books and folders were left in school. These are currently being collated in school for you to collect next week.

To make this collection COVID-19 secure, these books will be collected on a year group basis between 9am and 1pm from the entrance to the canteen, not through reception. Collection will take place on a different day for each year group, with parents lining up in a socially distanced way according to the markers leading up to the canteen entrance. Parking will be available near the bike sheds if you are arriving by car. The collection days are as follows:

Year group	Day / Date
Year 11	Monday 11 th January
Year 10	Tuesday 12 th January
Year 9	Wednesday 13 th January
Year 8	Thursday 14 th January
Year 7	Friday 15 th January

To reduce possible social contact only one person should arrive to collect the books and they should be wearing a mask, even when outside. Hand sanitiser will be available and other hygiene precautions will be taken. Parents with children in multiple year groups can pick up books for all their children on one occasion. If for some reason you cannot make your collection slot, please do not turn up on another day.

We understand that this is in the school/working day, and this may be problematic for some parents. We will contact those who have not been able to collect books to arrange collection at a later point.

Exams and assessments

On Wednesday, the Secretary of State for Education announced that all GCSE and A level exams for summer 2021 will be cancelled. He is yet to announce exactly how grades will be calculated for students. We know that this will involve some form of teacher assessment, which may rely on in school testing, but await further details which we expect in term 4.

In the meantime, it is vital that all year 11 and year 13 students continue to take their studies seriously. We know that they have had a large amount of disruption due to the pandemic and are doing our utmost to prepare them for however they are assessed. This will be emphasised to them by their respective Heads of Year, tutors, and teachers. Please continue to encourage and support them in their engagement with remote learning. We will be in contact with you as soon as we have more details about how their grades will be calculated.

Critical worker and vulnerable student provision

This has started well, with excellent behaviour and engagement of students who are in school. We have organised a staff supervision rota for the computer rooms where the students work through the remote learning in line with students at home.



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Whilst we are trying to reduce the number of staff and students in school to reduce possible COVID-19 transmission, we are fully aware how important this provision is to critical workers in our community. If you feel that your child should be included in this provision then please contact the school, we will be in touch to discuss this further.

Testing

Mr Williams has been working hard alongside a dedicated small team of staff to set up our in-school testing site. Things are progressing well; we anticipate we will be testing our staff, and the students who are in school, next week. Those involved will be contacted for parental consent and with details of how the process works. After initial testing, the process will be run weekly for staff and then daily for any contacts of any positive cases in school. The testing site will then be ready for the mass testing of all students upon their return after lockdown.

Lastly, a massive thank you for your patience and support as we prepare and deliver the best possible education for your child. We know that remote learning brings with it new and different challenges. We will be in regular contact with you to outline how things work and to offer support, but please contact the school if you have any concerns. Our pastoral team are setting up a programme of regular check ins and support for our students. This provision, alongside the commitment and expertise of our staff to deliver high quality lessons, will ensure we make the very best of a particularly difficult situation.

Despite all the challenges we face Fitzharrys students will have the opportunity to learn, aspire and broaden their horizons. Our staff are ready to share their enthusiasm and expertise across the coming weeks, and we know that Fitzharrys students will respond superbly.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke
Head of School



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