

ENFORCED EXTENDED SCHOOL CLOSURE

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Applies: 23rd March to 3rd April

Why has the school closed?

The government has asked parents/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, so that schools can care for only those students who absolutely need to attend from Monday 23rd March until further notice.

What does this mean for me as a parent?

The school is closed to all students, except for those eligible for emergency childcare (please see previous letter for details). We are asking for your support in helping us provide some form of education for your children whilst they are at home.

Although the school buildings are off-limits, we continue to consider ourselves as 'at work'. Students should also continue to consider themselves as 'at school' in the sense that they will need to study. It would be accurate to consider this period of school closure as '**working from home**' for teachers and students, although the hours and expectations are very different.

Are students expected to complete work at home?

YES. We will continue to set work for students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 to complete at home.

Please do the following:

- **Set a routine for your child for their 'school day'. This may mean a regular 'start time' where they start the work that has been set.**
- Teachers will set work for the lessons students would normally have had that day on Show My Homework (SMH).
- We will try to set work which is **manageable and achievable** for students. Each lesson's work may not take a whole hour to complete. We will try not to set work which requires students to make excessive use of the internet or a computer. We will not assume they have access to a printer or ask them to print out material.

Students in Year 11 and 13 will be working on collating a portfolio of their work, with guidance from their teachers. This work should be completed by their 'leaving day' of 7th May.

Please check each day that your child has completed the work set to a reasonable standard. We understand that you may be at work and will need to agree your own routine for this.

Completing the work set is very important. Failure to do this will mean your child has fallen behind other students by the time school re-opens.

Will we ask students to submit work for marking?

Not for most students. However, we can do this via Show My Homework (SMH) if the teacher would like it to be submitted.

If the school closure continues beyond the Easter holidays, we will be setting up procedures for students to submit work for checking. We will also be working on facilities for providing support. Please bear with us whilst in the crisis stage of this closure.

What should I do if my child is sick and cannot complete work?

If your child reaches a level of sickness that would prevent them attending school, then please report this 'absence' in the usual way. When better, they should catch up with any work missed as best they can.

Are other aspects of the school continuing to operate?

Most staff will not be in school. They will work from home as instructed to do by the government.

We continue to have a duty of care to our students. Therefore, staff will continue to respond to emails as normal. Email addresses are listed on the school website. Unfortunately, we will be unable to speak on the telephone as staff are not permitted to make work calls from their home phone or mobile.

If there are pastoral or safeguarding matters, please pass these on in the usual way. **Safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to your child's Head of Year.**

What happens over the Easter holidays?

The school will 'break up' for Easter as planned. Teachers may choose to set work for students over Easter (as they normally might), but will not be setting daily work. They will be taking a break.

What happens if the school closure continues

It is quite possible that the enforced school closure will go on beyond the Easter holidays. We will be working hard to prepare for this eventuality. This guidance, and how home study will operate, will change as we get more information. **Please be patient whilst we make the necessary arrangements.**

What do I need to know about school re-opening?

You will receive regular updates about the school closure. When we are able to re-open, there will be information about the arrangements for this.

How will external examinations be affected?

As per the recent government announcement, there will be no external examinations this summer. We do not yet know how grades will be awarded. We will let parents and students know as soon as we have clarification.

Advice on wellbeing

We all benefit from the routines of school and work. An extended school closure disrupts these routines and can negatively affect physical and mental health. We recommend:

- Setting a clear **daily routine**. This may mean completing school work in the morning, some physical exercise (perhaps going for a walk, if not self-isolating), regular meal times and some household chores in the afternoon.
- Adjusting this routine if you have more than one child so that **access to computer equipment** is agreed without arguments.
- Avoiding extended periods of time playing computer games, on Netflix/YouTube, on social media or watching TV.
- Regular bedtimes.

Website

Please go to www.farmors.gloucs.sch.uk for the latest information.

Please note that there has been a Google glitch, so the old website currently appears as the top link in a search when using Google. Please use the address above or a different search engine whilst this problem is addressed.