

SCHOOL CLOSURE

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Applies: 20th April to 22nd May 2020

UPDATES IN **BLUE**

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. We are asking for your support in helping us provide some form of education for your children whilst they are at home.

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. For Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 the work will be set on Show My Homework (SMH), but may also involve using other websites. For Year 12, the teachers will continue to use whatever methods they have agreed with their classes for setting work.

We will try to set work which is **manageable and achievable** for students. We will not assume they have access to a printer or ask them to print out material.

The work on SMH should appear on the day the student should expect it to, according to the timetable. It should be available until the Sunday of that same week to allow students to catch up if they fall behind. If the work does not appear on the day you expect, please email your child's class teacher.

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 to maintain a continuity of education.

How many pieces of work will be set, and how long should they take?

So far, work has been set according to the student's normal timetable. However, this will begin to change over the course of this half term. The intention is to reduce the number of pieces of work students are

asked to complete each day. This should be more sustainable for students and teachers, and improve the quality of work set and produced.

Year 7 and 8

From Monday 20th April (after the Easter break), Year 7 and 8 lessons will be re-timetabled so that they will have a maximum of three lessons each day. We will aim for each piece of work set to take around one hour, with an extension option for students who wish to do more. As before, the work will be set to appear on the scheduled day, following the timetables shown below.

| 7 | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---------|---------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|------------|-----|
| | Physical Activity (daily) | | | | | | | | | |
| English | Science | Art | English | Science | English | Science | RS | English | Science | |
| PSHCE | Maths | History | Maths | Music | PSHCE | Maths | History | Maths | Enrichment | |
| DT | Geography | MfL | CS/ICT | Catch up | Drama | Geography | MfL | CS/ICT | Catch up | |

| 8 | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---------|---------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|----------|-----|
| | Physical Activity (daily) | | | | | | | | | |
| Science | English | RS | Science | English | Science | English | Art | Science | English | |
| PSHCE | Drama | MfL | History | Enrichment | PSHCE | DT | MfL | History | Music | |
| Maths | CS/ICT | Maths | Geography | Catch up | Maths | CS/ICT | Maths | Geography | Catch up | |

The Enrichment block on Friday is a more open activity where students are encouraged to try any of the extension materials set during the week or to read. The Catch-Up blocks are in place to help students who may not have completed everything set during the week.

Year 9 and 10

From Monday 11th May, Year 9 will stop studying the subjects that they are not continuing with to GCSE. Both Year 9 and Year 10 will then be re-timetabled so that they will have a maximum of four lessons each day. This will reduce the daily demand on students and reduce the number of subjects studied from 15 to 9 for Year 9 students. We will communicate individual timetables to Year 9 students in the coming weeks so that they know which of their chosen subject sits in each Option Block.

We will aim for each piece of work set to take around one hour, with an extension option for students who wish to do more. As before, the work will be set to appear on the scheduled day.

Note that Year 9 and 10 students will continue with their current timetable up until 11th May.

Year 11

Year 11 will finish their GCSE study formerly on Thursday 7th May. Until this point, they may continue to pull together a portfolio of work or complete any work suggested by teachers. The latter is particularly important if they wish to continue study of a subject next year.

After this, departments will be asked to set A-Level preparation work for those students who have chosen their Post-16 subject options.

Year 11 students will 'break up' for summer at the end of June, which was the scheduled date of the final GCSE exam.

If students would like to present a portfolio of work for internal accreditation, they will be able to do so when school returns. For those students who are not planning to continue into A-Level study, we will offer a Springboard package which will be led by our Careers Advisor Liz Lloyd. For those students who are planning to study A-Levels at another setting, we will offer the opportunity to take part in the preparation work for those subjects that are offered at Farmor's.

Year 12

From Monday 20th April, Y12 will follow a slightly simpler timetable structure to support their ability to manage their time and also get feedback on their work. Between Monday and Thursday, students will be set approximately 5 hours' work per subject (less for Core Maths), but not according to their usual timetabled lessons. This will be set on a Monday for them to allocate their time during the week. On Fridays they will have submission deadlines for the work done in the week and we also hope to be able to set up more interactive forums as the weeks progress. In addition, on Fridays, there is time for picking up the enrichment ideas sent out in the Monday morning Newsletter and also in the Friday Careers Bulletin. We would also expect tutors to be getting in touch on Fridays with things related to UCAS, careers, personal statements and future destinations.

Year 13

Year 13 will finish their A Level courses on 7 May. If students would like to present a portfolio of work for internal accreditation, they will be able to do so and should send it to their respective teachers.

Will we ask students to submit work?

YES. We will ask students to submit or provide evidence of some of the work they do. Teachers may ask students to do this predominantly using SMH, or occasionally by email.

There are three reasons teachers may ask students to submit work:

1. **To check is has been completed.** The main reason we want to check on this is to make sure that students are okay and able to do the work being set. Setting work which is accessible to children

without being in the class with them is difficult. Being able to see the work produced helps the teacher adjust their expectations and decide what students should do next.

2. **To look at how well students have been able to complete the work.** By scanning the work of students, teachers can tell things about what difficulties students have had, and what they have struggled with. This helps teachers give whole-class feedback and helps them decide what to ask students to do next.
3. **To provide feedback to students.** Trying to 'teach' a class remotely is very time consuming. Teachers are designing new materials and re-structuring the curriculum as they go along to make it accessible to students. Providing answers to students' questions when they get stuck also takes a great deal of time. As a result, limited time is available to 'mark' individual pieces of work. Teachers will be prioritising Year 10 and 12 for such feedback as missing school has the highest impact on their long-term prospects.

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.

The reason we need to know if your child is sick is that we know not to worry if the work is being completed or we don't hear back when we contact the student. Please also let your child's Head of Year know if there are family circumstances which may affect your child's ability to complete work.

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.

Your child's tutor will be in touch with them now and again. Students can contact their tutor at any time if they are concerned about anything.

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 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 will keep parents and students in Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 informed about how grades will be awarded as soon as we have agreed our process.](#)

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.

Further information

The Government have released advice and guidance for parents during this period of school closure. This includes information about support for continuing to learn at home.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>