

14 May 2020

Dear students and parents/guardians,

You will have seen the Government's recent announcement about the possibility of opening schools and colleges on 1 June 2020. There has been a lot of information in the press about this, so I thought it would be helpful if I clarified the current plans we have at The Sixth Form College Farnborough.

Firstly, let me say that, at this stage, we are not expecting to open the College to all students before September. We have a large cohort of almost 2,000 Year 12 students, so the ongoing requirement for social distancing will be a challenge for us.

We are looking at a variety of options to allow a partial re-opening by reducing the number of students who will attend college. Factors being considered include:

- Vulnerability factors;
- Parents/guardians choice;
- Transport arrangements;
- Ability to work remotely.

It is likely that most students will continue with our online teaching approach. We have been really impressed by how the students and staff have risen to this new way of working.

I am working with the associations who represent the sector, other local Principals, Unions and the Sixth Form College Association taking advice and sharing ideas.

I am sure that you recognise the difficulties we are wrestling with, but rest assured that we are working hard to overcome them. Our main priority at this time is to make the College safe for any students and staff who do come on to site.

We are expecting more advice from the Department for Education later this week and so I will be in touch again with an update following this announcement.

Thank you for your continued support through these difficult times.

**Catherine Cole**  
Principal

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