

17 July 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your family are well.

I wanted to give you an update about what we are planning at the start of the autumn term. Please note that some of the dates previously advertised have changed; we are starting term a week earlier to allow everyone time to settle back into College after such a long period away and get to grips with the new plans.

Start of Term - Tuesday, 1 September 2020. The College term officially starts for second years on 1 September 2020. This year we will dedicate the first week of term to holding online one-to-ones between subject staff and their students. These meetings will provide an opportunity to catch up, review the first year, look ahead to the challenges of the second year and discuss formal predicted grades. Teachers will make arrangements with their students regarding times and dates, these meetings will set the scene for the new academic year, so we hope that every student will make every effort to attend.

Teaching starts - Monday 7 September 2020. As per the current Department for Education guidance, we are planning to have all students attending their academic lessons on site in September. In order to accommodate this, we are going to start with an altered timetable, with two 3 hour lessons a day; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. This is in order to reduce the number of students on site in a day and minimise the movement of students around College. Across a two week period, a student will have three double lessons per academic subject. Some elements of a student's programme, such as Prospects, may be delivered remotely. If students are not in a timetabled lesson, they will be encouraged and supported to work from home. The Learning Resource Centres will be open for students who are unable to travel home.

If the College's plan has to change based on the situation in the local area, we will update you.

Catering - We are unable to offer the usual catering options for the time being. It will be possible for students to buy a limited range of food, but we are encouraging students to bring in their own lunch if they are timetabled to be in lessons all day.

Preparing the College site - Work will be ongoing over the summer break to prepare the site for the return of the students. We will have one way systems, hand sanitiser stations and signage to inform students and staff of the health and safety regulations.

Changes to October half term dates - Please note that October half term will now be a two week break from 19 - 30 October 2020. This is because staff are returning a week earlier in the summer.

Centre Assessed Grading - first year students who are receiving grades this summer (AS Further Maths, GCSE and some vocational courses) should make sure they read and understand the information on the exams page "Understanding Centre Assessed Grading" before exam results are issued, a copy of which is attached.

We will be continuing to update the College website, farnborough.ac.uk, over the summer so please keep an eye out for updates. This is especially relevant for those who travel on public transport. We are speaking to the service providers and are hoping to have an update about this nearer the start of term.

Best wishes,

Catherine Cole
Principal