

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear students, parents and families,

### **Key workers & vulnerable children**

Overnight, the government has published its latest guidance on the categories of students that schools may stay open for from next week. That advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

### **Vulnerable students**

The advice is similar to our expectations. We have contacted directly all those families that we believe are affected and asked them whether they need to attend. It is important to remember that where a student is at risk because of an underlying health condition, we do not expect them to attend.

### **Key workers**

The guidance is very clear about the starting point:

**‘If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.’**

Schools are closing in order that social contact is as limited as it can be. The guidance goes on to say:

**‘...schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.’**

We would ask you to recognise that the more children that come into college, the greater the risks.

Yesterday we sent out a form for key workers to register their request for children to come into college to help with our planning for next week. We will send a confirmation invitation to all those requests that we are able to support. Please be aware that we will be managing the capacity of the college staff as well, many of whom are now self-isolating or staying away for health reasons. For the purposes of Monday (23<sup>rd</sup>) only send your child to college if you have received one of these invitations.

### **Free School Meals**

We are waiting for the detail of how free school meals families will be supported over this period and I will write specifically to those families with more information.

### **FROG**

FROG work for college closure is activated today; any issues please email [frogsupport@fromecollege.org](mailto:frogsupport@fromecollege.org)

Thank you for your support and understanding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ER'.

Yours faithfully,

Emma Reynolds