

# Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

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Dear Parent

I would like to extend my thanks to all students and parents for their full support and engagement during these first few weeks of 2021 - amidst difficult circumstances, parents, staff and students have 'kept calm and carried on' with remote learning. The introduction of live lessons has been met with overwhelming positivity and we are glad that this is enabling our students to maintain structure and continuity in their education, as well as providing valuable interaction with their peers and teachers. I would like to thank all those parents who have written to us with such kind messages of support and gratitude – these are always very warmly received by our staff who are working hard to support the children in our care.

## Re-opening of Schools

In his announcement to Parliament on Wednesday, the Prime Minister confirmed that schools would not re-open before Monday 8 March 2021 and that this will be dependent upon a number of different factors, including infection rates and how successfully the Government has delivered its vaccination programme. We will receive two weeks' notice of reopening and it is quite likely that students will return on a phased basis. In the meantime, we ask that everyone continues to do as they are doing and remain fully engaged with online learning.

## FHS Covid-19 Test Centre

Our Test Centre is running smoothly at FHS, keeping staff and students currently attending Open School safe and reassured. Plans are underway for testing of all students when schools eventually re-open and more information will be provided in due course. In the meantime, please visit the [Test Centre area of the school website](#) for more information about our current operations. Any students returning to Open School after a period of self-isolation (as a result of being in close contact with a positive case or where a member of their household has tested positive) will be asked (subject to consent) to visit the Test Centre when they arrive on their first day of returning to school.

## Mental Health and Well-being

February 1-7 has been designated Children's Mental Health Week. Throughout the week watch out for our virtual support for both students and parents through a range of online activities. There has never been a more important time to look after our children's mental health and we hope you will find the information both useful and supportive.





## Open School

Recent Government guidance issued to schools made it clear that parents who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. To help us prevent Open School becoming overwhelmed, please consider very carefully if your child(ren) can safely stay at home and only book a place if absolutely necessary. Where we have concerns that students are vulnerable we will continue to work with parents to ensure attendance at Open School. All students attending Open School should bring a set of headphones (wired) to enable engagement in live lessons and other work set on Class Charts. They should wear either their full school uniform or PE kit with their blazer over the top. The booking link for the next two weeks (1-12 February 2021) was sent earlier this week by ParentMail and expires at 4pm today (Friday 29 January).

## Half Term Holiday

The half term holiday is week commencing Monday 15 February and we hope that families will be able to use this break to re-charge their batteries and step back from school work. Please note that there will be no Open School provision during the half term break (15-19 February) and provision will resume on Monday 22 February (the booking link for this period will be sent to you prior to half term). Whilst our published term dates announced that Monday 22 February was an INSET (staff only) day, we have decided to reschedule this to later in the school year (date to be confirmed) to provide time for staff to work on summer 2021 grading.

## Subject Consultation Evenings

As we continue to manage the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been working hard to find suitable alternatives to face-to-face Subject Consultation Evenings in order to continue to provide an opportunity for parents to safely meet with their son/daughter's subject teachers. To achieve this, we have introduced virtual (video) appointments using our current Parents' Evening System with which most parents will be familiar. You will receive further information as your child's evening approaches but, in the meantime, please find below the dates for our remaining Subject Consultation Evenings:

- Year 9 (OMYH) – Thursday 4 February 2021
- Year 10 – Thursday 29 April 2021
- Year 11 – Thursday 4 March 2021
- Year 12 – Thursday 27 May 2021
- Year 7 (FOR) – Thursday 18 March 2021
- Year 8 (FOR) – Thursday 24 June 2021
- Year 7 (MBYH) – Thursday 25 March 2021
- Year 8 (MBYH) – Thursday 1 July 2021

## Sixth Form 2021

For students in Year 11 and their parents, please be aware that our Sixth Form recruitment programme for September 2021 is now underway. I would encourage you to [visit our website](#) to review our new video, online prospectus and a wealth of information to support your post 16 pathway choices. We will also be holding a special 'Sixth Form Live Online Event' on 10 February 2021 – full details will be provided to Year 11 students and their parents shortly. As usual, we welcome students from across the local area to join FHS Sixth Form and receive more and more applicants each year – if you are aware of Year 11 students in the local area who would be interested in finding out more, please direct them to the online information above.

## GCSE / A Level and Vocational Qualifications (Summer 2021)

As mentioned in my letter to parents of students in Years 10, 11 and 13, the Department for Education / Ofqual is currently consulting on plans for the grading process for those students who were due to sit examinations at GCSE / A Level and in vocational qualifications this summer. The consultation ends today and we expect further information on grading plans during the week beginning Monday 21 February.

I hope you have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

**D A Mackenzie**  
Headteacher