

How are you responding to the Government guidance to re-open schools and colleges?

Fairfield has remained open as the Country has responded to COVID-19, this is because the Government classify our students as 'vulnerable young people' and as such, instructed us to remain open. We quickly adapted to different ways of working and continue to do so in order to best meet the needs of our students.

Can my child return to college?

Yes, young people are strongly encouraged to attend (where there are no shielding concerns) so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits from attending.

Can my child return to college if someone at home is shielding?

Yes, where someone in the household is shielding (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend their education setting.

How are you preparing for greater numbers of students returning to college and the houses?

We have been working with small numbers of initially 8, 11, then 15 and as a result we have been in the fortunate position of being able to trial different ways of working in response to changing Government guidance in keeping staff and students safe.

How are students and residents in college coping with the changes?

Remarkably well, hygiene and infection control is always a priority with established systems and students have adapted to increasing handwashing and sanitising, they even have an hand gesture to remind people to use sanitiser. Systems such as sitting at a table by their photography or using different entrances and exits to minimise numbers passing in corridors, as well as following 2m markers has become the new norm. We have been amazed at how resilient our young people are.

Will my child's timetable change?

Yes, the curriculum is constantly adapting to ensure social distancing and safety. There will be a continued emphasis on learning, however the main timetable will not be in place. Instead we are prioritising using outside spaces for learning, minimising the movement of students across the site and reducing the numbers of staff and students that individuals come into contact with.

What about infection control measures?

The college and houses were recently deep cleaned by a contractor. We have commissioned a team of cleaning contractors to double our capacity within the team. The team is on site daily with an additional plan for wiping down surfaces and equipment between sessions across the day. We have anti-bac soap and sanitiser across the site with systems in place to ensure regular and routine use.

What other measures are you taking to minimise risk of infection?

Additional measures we are taking include:

- Guidance issued to ensure people are alert to symptoms and follow the self-isolation guidance
- Deep cleaning and increasing the capacity by contracting with a local cleaning company
- Anti-bacterial soap and sanitiser in all key areas
- Strict handwashing and hygiene guidance
- Reduced numbers of staff working with students
- Small and consistent groups of students with key staff
- Adapted timetable focusing on education outdoors
- Minimising the use of corridors by using outside access to classrooms

- Using large vehicles to space students when travelling to Hope Nature Centre
- Visible spacing measures to promote 2m distancing
- Full PPE including gloves and aprons available
- Introducing face coverings for those that feel more comfortable wearing them

Are there enough staff to support my child if they go back to college?

We have a dedicated and committed workforce that have worked hard to ensure the safety of students and residents. We have a full team of tutors and support staff ready to work with increasing numbers of students and residents.

Do the staff have access to sufficient PPE?

Yes, we have anti-bac soap, sanitiser, aprons, gloves, face masks, face shields and face coverings*. We have a full stock of PPE to enable us to follow the guide for barrier nursing with clear instructions on how and when to implement the use of PPE, namely when a resident shows symptom of COVID-19.

*Face coverings are not recommended for use within education settings, but we will issue a face covering for all staff and students to use where social distancing cannot be reliably followed or where people feel more confident doing so.

What is the 'bubble' model the Government keep referring to?

This approach is aimed at reducing the number of people that children and young people will come into contact within school and college. For example, small numbers of students will work with a core group of staff based in a limited number of areas within the building. This reduces the risk of mixing with large numbers of people.

Do I have to send my child back to college on the 1 June?

To be clear, we are sharing this advice with you and will continue to work with you to ensure that we are meeting the needs of your child. **We are not informing you that you must send your child back to college on the 1 June and fully intend to continue to operate home learning for those students that continue to isolate.**

Will transport services be operational?

Transport services are operational for those that are currently accessing, we have found them to be responsive to families as students have started to return. You will need to liaise with transport services to check on availability of routine services.

How will transport services keep my child safe?

We have seen some drivers wearing masks, larger vehicles are spacing students within the vehicle. It is our understanding that individual taxis will not be available, but you should speak directly to the service in your area. The use of face covering is one option to provide additional protection in the vehicle.

Will you be routinely taking my child's temperature?

No, Government guidance states that parents, carers and settings do not need to take children's temperature. Routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying COVID-19.

What happens if my child becomes unwell with COVID-19 symptoms at college?

We will move them to a designated isolation room with adult supervision. We will ensure there is additional ventilation, staff will maintain 2m distance and allocate a separate toilet facility. We will make contact with the family them and follow Government isolation guidance to remain at home and self-isolate for a period of 7-days.

If they are a resident and you would like them to return home, this can be arranged. However, if you prefer or it is safer to remain at college then staff are skilled to take care of them. Barrier nursing would

be implemented which will mean they are unable to leave their room for at least 7-days, maybe 14 depending on others in the residence also having symptoms.

Can my child be tested for COVID-19 if they show symptoms?

Yes, all staff and children in all settings will be eligible for testing if they become ill with symptoms, as will members of their households.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the college?

The student or member of staff will be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 7-days, their fellow household members will be asked to isolate for 14-days. If the test is negative, they can return to college and household members can end isolation. Where the test is positive the rest of their class and staff working with them will be asked to self-isolate for 14-days. Areas affected in the college will be deep cleaned.

We report all confirmed cases to Public Health England who will advise us on any further actions. Where settings are observing guidance on infection control, which will reduce the risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

Will the residential houses still be under self-isolating household restrictions?

Yes, self-isolating restrictions will need to be in place for residents.

Would my child be at higher risk of catching COVID-19 at college than at home?

Public Health England are clear that if education settings apply comprehensive infection control measures such as taking steps to ensure symptomatic individuals do not attend settings, regular hand cleaning, respiratory hygiene and cleaning measures, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.

Can residential students go home for weekends and can my family visit?

Yes, student residents can return home for the weekend as long as families are adhering to Public Health England guidance. However, we do not want families the houses to minimise the number of people that residents are coming into contact with.

If my child has symptoms of COVID-19 or been in contact in the last 14-days with someone who has symptoms can they return to college?

No, if they have symptoms, they must not return for 7-days or until symptom free. If they have been in contact with someone with symptoms, they must not return for 14-days and can only do so if they have remained symptom free. Symptoms include a cough or temperature of 37.8 or above.

If my child can't return to college this term can we apply for an extension request?

At the present time we do not fully understand the implications for students that have lost time at College or not achieved their learning outcomes due to the interruption of their education. We are working closely with all local authorities to gain clarification regarding extension requests. Once we have further information, we will share this with you.