

8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Return to school for all students and additional information

Exactly one week ago I wrote to you to share the very disappointing news that after advice from the DfE we would have to close off significant areas of the school due to the RAAC that had been discovered on site. This created a huge amount of uncertainty for all involved, and obviously changed our priorities somewhat for the first few days of term! One week later I'm pleased to say that due to the tremendous efforts of staff, phenomenal local community and brilliant businesses located within Suffolk we are in a much stronger position than we could have ever anticipated. Today we received our first delivery of temporary classrooms, toilet facilities and other spaces all of which should quickly be in use. We've had local scaffolding firms in to create safe working spaces in other areas, and even a marquee very generously borrowed from Woodbridge Sea Scouts to create some extra space for the sixth form. Furthermore we hope to have a really exciting solution to the temporary closure of the library in place soon. When I officially started the role on the September 1st I was well aware of what a brilliant community surrounded Farlingaye, but the response of people and the desire to help never fails to astonish me.

I said I would write to update about a return for all students. I've also covered a few other items below with the intention of trying to keep the number of letters down at the start of term.


Return of all students for Monday 11th September and the wearing of PE kit

I'm delighted to say we have made the necessary amendments to the site and also creatively used all spaces available to us to enable the safe return of all students from Monday onwards. I appreciate that any delay is always to be avoided, so thank you for your patience particularly to those in years 8-10. I attach a copy of the Tutor List. Please can students in Yrs 8-10 check where their form room is.

We do still though have a shortage of changing space, so for the next two weeks can students who have PE that day come into school in their PE kit. This needs to be either the Farlingaye or plain polo shirt or the schools rugby shirt and either their navy blue skort or shorts. For Monday 11th September this means all of year 7, and those year 10s on the "south" side of the timetable should come into school in kit. Students who wish to attend PE clubs, which will restart next week should also come to school in kit.

Open Evening

Due to the events of the last week and the need for us to source new space for students, we have decided to delay Open Evening until October 12th. This is mainly for Parents of current Y6 students, but thought it may be good to make all aware. The evening will run from 6-8.30pm and more details will follow in due course, however I just wanted to give notice of the change in date. If that date is not convenient, or you wish to see the school at a different time we are running an Open Morning on



Friday 22nd September and this will offer a chance for a tour of the school. Please contact reception or email mail@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk to reserve a place.

School photos

It is individual school photos on Friday 15th September. If they have PE that day they will need to have their photo taken in their Farlingaye PE kit. This affects 7G, 7Y, 7E, 7H, 7S, Year 9 South, and Year 11 North.

Farlingaye Parents Association

On the 19th September the Farlingaye PTA (FHSF) are holding their first meeting. It will be at 7pm in the Conference Room (6th Form Block). We will be preparing for the Makers' Market and looking at other ways of supporting our students. If you are willing and able to help then please do come along. If you would like to help but cannot make the meeting let us know on fhsfcommittee@gmail.com.

I hope all this makes sense. It has been lovely to have students back on site for the last two days and I look forward to seeing the remainder of pupils on Monday. I hope for those students joining us for the first time, whether in year 7 or 12 it has been a particularly good start to their time with us. Whether this is your first September as part of our Farlingaye community, or the latest of many, I hope the academic year ahead is a brilliant one where everyone makes the most of what's on offer. As a parent as well as a Headteacher I'm fully aware of the challenges that a new term can bring, and if there's anything we can do to support please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes

P Smith

Headteacher