



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Strange times. Today will likely be the last day of this academic year. Certainly 12 weeks seems to be the timeframe being talked about, and that could take us through to late June - so back to school for a few weeks seems unlikely given the pressures the country faces/better safe than sorry and all that. Time will tell and we will maintain contact at regular intervals as we begin to know more.

Today is a 'normal' day - albeit non-uniform. Year 11 and Year 13 will have final assemblies period 5 and yesterday I sent through an 'end of the year powerpoint' for period 5 - to share with all classes - a photo gallery of all the trips and events that the school has offered this year, all that we have been up to! Despite the year being cut short, still 122 slides long. Our exam results are amazing but we are about so much more and it is perhaps our greatest pride, simply, that the girls are happy here at FSG.

We have had a request from colleagues at Folkestone & Hythe District Council concerning our Year 11 and year 13 students. As this will be their 'last day' many are planning leaver's parties/celebrations around the area tonight. Understandable really. However, given the situation, the policy of social distancing and pressures on our emergency services a request for parents to ask their children to refrain in these uncertain times. As a school we have organised a leavers assembly, shirt signing, cupcakes, that end of the year powerpoint and hope to make today as positive for them as it can be.

**For those few students joining us on Monday**, a hot lunch will be provided but please bring snacks for break time and have breakfast before you arrive. You will need to sign in at reception, then wash your hands and then report, most likely to the sixth form area. Uniform is not required, but bring some sports kit as we may well do some climbing, biking and/or archery to give you a break from the computers!

**To my staff**, the volume of email traffic thanking us is unprecedented. Parents, girls, governors, senior leaders, me - are all massively appreciative of all that you do and have done this year, and in recent days, for our girls, the quality of education, the number of trips, visits, excursions, guest speakers, the ethos of care and kindness. As ever, the powerpoint and the smiles speak a thousand words.

Cont'd / 2 ....

**To parents**, thank you for your support over the year and in recent days, which has been overwhelming. We will miss your daughters. Entertaining the kids will be a challenge, no doubt!

Perhaps, as I wrote yesterday, there is an opportunity to slow down the pace of life and enjoy some gained family time. In case you did not know, National Trust and English Heritage have opened their grounds for free so country walks/bike rides are an option! With the internet likely to being stretched time to dust down those board games and jigsaws. Of course, also an opportunity to support our local communities and vulnerable neighbours; time to make a difference.

**To our girls**. You will be missed! Try and keep up with your education, it will be difficult to motivate yourselves but you must. Your teachers will set work and be online to support you with your learning. It won't be perfect but it will be our best. We ask you for your best. Use the opportunity to catch up on topics you may not have quite grasped fully this year, to practice that which you have struggled with. Learn a new language. Learn coding? Try a new craft? Stay in touch with your friends - online mainly - and be aware that some will be lonely, so look out for each other.

And be nice to your parents!

This link, kindly sent through by a parent may help:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lester', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Mark Lester  
Principal