

29 April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

The current COVID-19 situation has naturally been the focus of our communications to you over the last few weeks but today, we are pleased to be able to give you some positive news concerning the School.

Previously, we had put plans in place for the Spring and Summer terms to prepare for the arrival of Paul Foster, our new Headteacher. He has remained in regular contact with the School, Governors and the Trust throughout the current closure, but the planned visits have not been possible in the current circumstances. However, we are pleased to be able to share with you that an agreement has been made with his current school to allow him to start his tenure at Warlingham a little earlier. Mr Foster will now be taking up his position immediately after half term, on Monday 1st June 2020. This is an excellent development as it will give him a much better handover opportunity and it will enable him to join us in planning for the new academic year. In light of all that has happened since the lockdown was announced, we know there is a lot more to plan for than usual so we are delighted that Mr Foster will be able to support with this.

At this stage, we really don't know when schools will be operating normally again. It is likely that when restrictions start to be lifted we may see a partial opening, or some sort of staged return but we have no confirmed details yet. We hope to hear more about the Government's plans in the next week or two. In the meantime, Paul Foster is really looking forward to taking up his new role at Warlingham and we are sure you will give him a warm welcome, even if this is initially at a distance. Mr Foster is keen to communicate with all of you personally and we will be sending you a letter from him later this week.

We are also keen to share with you our exciting plans for Warlingham Sixth Form College. This year, we engaged in a thorough review of our current provision, part of which has focussed on how we could improve the building which is dedicated to College students. We have consulted with students and staff to gain an understanding of what features would make a real difference and how we can best achieve this. We are now pleased to announce that we have instructed a company to start work on the refurbishment of the building, taking advantage of the opportunity to get this started during the lockdown period. The designers have been given an initial remit based upon the valuable feedback we had from our current students last term. We will now be asking a representational group of current College students as well as some students from Warlingham's Years 10 and 11, to be part of the next stage of the design consultation process.

We want our College to be an exciting and modern environment, the stepping stone between school and either university or the workplace. We intend to offer a variety of ways of working for our College students, technology that supports their learning effectively and exciting leadership opportunities to challenge and develop them.

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We will keep you updated on progress over the coming weeks. We thank all of you for continuing to support Warlingham School & Sixth Form College and we thank the students in advance for helping to shape the future of our college.

Kind regards

Rebecca Plaskitt

CEO Tandridge Learning Trust

Jacqueline Baker

Chair of Governors