

11 December 2020

Dear parent, carer

I hope you are safe and well and that, despite the difficult times we are going through, so too are your loved ones and friends.

It seems that our two-week circuit break at the end of last half-term has helped the school stay open for most of our students this half-term, particularly as other schools, locally and nationally, have had to unfortunately close to all students at times.

In saying this, I remain incredibly proud and humbled by the hard work and determination shown by our Fortis staff to continue to provide an education for our students, whether at home or in school, and whether they themselves have had to do this from home or in school.

I think it is also worth mentioning that since September, in order to reduce the Covid risk in the school, Fortis teachers have been travelling up, down and across our large academy site every day. In every lesson, they have had to teach in different classrooms and spaces, without a base to call their own. By teachers moving more and students moving less, this has allowed students to be taught in safer bubbles or zones. Teaching is a rewarding yet demanding profession but never before have teachers had to work as hard as they do now. I thank and salute them all.

Our students have also been a credit to the school. It hasn't been easy for them either, and there is no doubt that they too have played their part in helping keep the school open through their co-operation with all the Covid-measures that have been put in place. I thank and salute them, and you too.

I would however, like to communicate a change in policy with regards to the wearing of masks. Please be advised that from Monday 14th December 2020, we will not be admitting any student that arrives to school in the morning without a face-mask of their own. It has become apparent that some students, a minority of students, continually rely on the school to provide masks on a daily basis and are not taking the responsibility we need them to on this matter. If this change of policy is likely to cause you any problems, do not hesitate to get in touch.

On a more positive note, I am declaring next Friday, our final day in school of 2020, a non-uniform day. Christmas jumpers, from staff and students will be most welcomed. There is a possibility that the government may declare next Friday a no school day, which we will confirm with you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to writing to you again next week in the run-up to Christmas.

Yours faithfully



Alberto Otero
Campus Principal