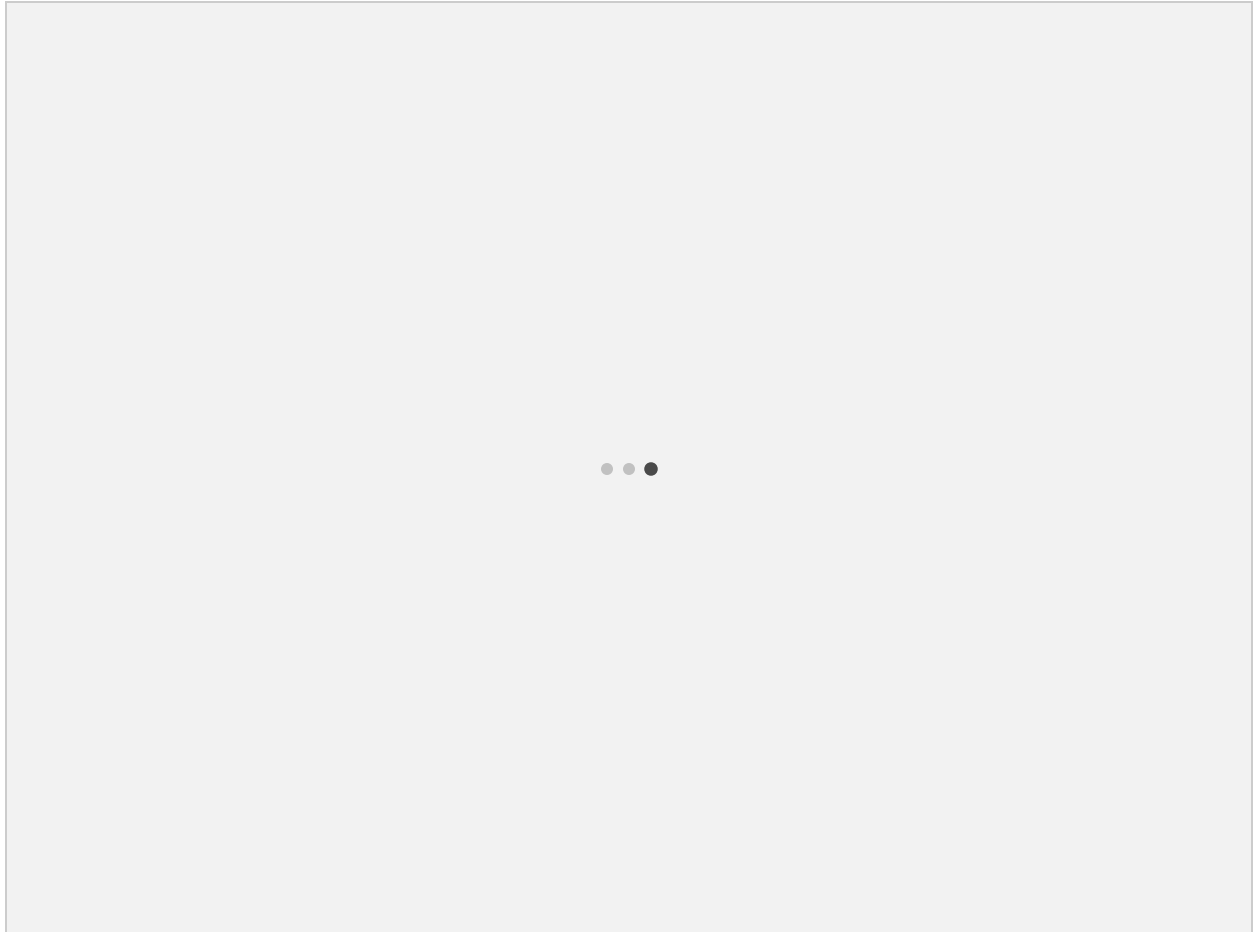


Communication to parents

I hope that you all had a good Easter weekend. As the blossom is coming out on the trees, and the sun is shining, Felsted is looking particularly good at the moment, and we should be preparing for the start of the summer term. This Friday should have been the first cricket match of the new season, with the boys taking on Oakham on the Front.



Instead, we have been working hard over the break to update our curriculum for the coming term - for "Felsted At Home". Our focus is different for the different year groups, and please do read this document for the full picture (<https://www.felsted.org/covid19>), but in brief we are aiming for the following:

- Year 9 - preparation for GCSE courses, by following year 10 options
- Year 10 - continue with GCSE courses
- Year 11 - preparation for 6th form study
- Lower 6th - continue with A Level and IB courses
- Upper 6th - preparation for university and/or workplace

Each day will start (for Years 9-11 and Lower 6th) with a brief Tutor catch up at 8.45am (for which pupils must be up and dressed).

Alongside the academic lessons, we have also created a wide ranging co-curricular option that can be accessed by all. The web-page with this information will be shared at the beginning of next week. Tutors will be talking to tutees about what they are doing, either from this web-page, or in other ways, and a record should be kept via the Felsted Diploma (on the MIS) of activities undertaken.

For everyone, the priority is to stay healthy, and to look after families. If what we are asking in terms of learning proves too difficult in any way, or as a family you are facing challenging circumstances, please let us know, so that we can adapt what we are doing. If there are any safeguarding concerns, please contact Mrs O'Brien (nfsob@felsted.org), who is Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead, following the retirement of Mrs Megahey.

At this time, it would also be useful to share good news stories where possible, either directly by email to us, or by sharing on social media ([#felstedathome](#)).

Chris Townsend

Additional information for Parents

- 1. Future plans**
- 2. Year 11 and Upper 6th**
- 3. Online learning: Google suite**
- 4. Designated Safeguarding leads (DSLs)**
- 5. Online guidance (pornography)**
- 6. Remote working guidance**

1. Future plans

It is now clear that the school will not be able to reopen next week. Although there has not been any official guidance yet, we are working on the basis that **we will definitely not be open until Monday 11th May** at the earliest, so will be running Remote Learning up until that point.

The most likely scenario at the moment would appear to be that we will not open until after half term (somewhere between 1st and 15th June). If this is the case, it could also be that any

reopening will be 'staggered', meaning that not all year groups return at the same time. It is still possible that schools will not reopen until September.

2. Year 11 and Upper 6th

For both Year 11 and Upper 6th, we will be making available some work that can be completed in each subject (release date 21st April, deadline 1st May). There is no need to do all of this work. We have plenty of evidence to support our grading, but this is an opportunity to put forward one or two last pieces of work if it would be helpful.

Reasons to complete the work:

- You have consulted with your teachers, and they have advised you to do this work
- You are going to study that subject next year (in 6th form or at university) and would benefit from keeping your skills up to date
- You have had a long break from work, and it would be helpful to give you some focus and structure
- You have missed time from school, and are concerned that you have not done all the work that you should have done

We will not be providing feedback on this work, which can be completed 'open book', although there will be time guidance provided.

3. Online Learning: Google Suite

Pupils and parents are reminded that online learning at Felsted takes place through the Google Suite. In particular, for safeguarding and data protection reasons, all live video calls must be through Google Hangouts Meet.

4. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs):

Following the retirement of Mrs Megahey at the end of term, please direct all safeguarding concerns relating to pupils in the senior section of the school to Mrs N. O'Brien (nfsob@felsted.org) 07581 498869

5. Online guidance (pornography)

With the average age at which children first see pornographic content recorded as 10 years old, access to porn is seen by many young people. Boys are statistically more likely to view pornography out of choice than girls and even access to more extreme pornography (including violence, coercion and "niche" practices) is accessible to our children in only a few clicks these days.

As lockdown continues, the biggest provider of internet porn, Pornhub, has “magnanimously” made its premium service available free until the end of the month. The more cynical amongst us can see that Pornhub, along with other purveyors of pornography, is seeking to recruit amongst our increasingly online children. Currently, access to online pornography accounts for 30% of all online use.

Not only is the risk of children seeing disturbing content increased at this time, the child’s appreciation of what constitutes a consensual and appropriate sexual relationship is skewed. Add to this the fact that almost every adult website is sending details about people’s browsing to third parties, potentially making them vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.

It is a very difficult subject for many parents to broach with their children and those who find their children have already accessed porn may be tempted to offer major punishments such as seizing all internet devices. The most important thing is to keep the lines of communication open. Try asking “What did you learn from watching that?” or “I’ve heard that people can get porn on their mobiles - what do you think about that?” Stress that porn doesn’t teach about emotional relationships and love. Talk about the actors/ participants in the porn. Have they been coerced? How can you be sure that the actor is not trafficked? You could point out that there are a great many videos showing abuse (some including children) and that these sites are first and foremost businesses who rely on creating the next generation of consumers.

If you have any concerns, please do contact Mrs O’Brien (nfsob@felsted.org) or Mrs Page (wellbeing@felsted.org).