



12th July 2019

Further to our previous correspondence on the matter, we are writing to confirm the current position with regards to Farmor's Sports Centre.

The Trading Company

Farmor's Sports Centre is a trading subsidiary of Farmor's School. It was formed in 2014 when the school took ownership of the sports centre from Cotswold District Council. With this came a grant to protect the school from losses that the sports centre was making, giving a period of time for the business to try to move to at least a break even position.

Unfortunately, despite trying several avenues, Farmor's Sports Centre continues to be loss making and no further grants are available to cover these losses. Rising costs, particularly staff costs relating to National Living Wage, NI and the Local Government Pension Scheme, have frustrated the continued attempts to break even.

As an academy, Farmor's School is not allowed by law to be loss making, nor is it allowed to run a loss making entity. The Directors of the school, and Central Government, via the Education Skills and Funding Agency, have made it clear that the Sports Centre must not operate at a loss.

The school has therefore no alternative but to close the Sports Centre as a trading company as of the 31st August 2019. However, the school has been considering how as many of the facilities available to the public as possible might be maintained.

Community use of the Sports Hall

As we have stated in previous letters that we have sent out, the school is very keen to support the local community groups who use the sports hall for community sports, for example football, netball and cricket, in the evening. We will be writing to each of these organisations in the next few days to offer them continued use of the facility under the school's lettings policy. The provision will need to be slightly different as the centre will not be manned, but the school are putting plans in place now to ensure community use can continue.

Continued.....

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Community use of the Gym

A staffed fitness gym is a service that the school can no longer afford to provide, due to the high staffing costs highlighted in this letter. We are now exploring whether alternative arrangements can be considered and whether we can re-introduce a gym provision in some form in the future as we are aware of the strength of feeling in the community about there being a permanent facility for gym users in the Fairford area. This needs further discussion in order to see whether there is a model that could work for both the school and the community. The school have undertaken not to re-purpose the fitness gym until an opportunity has been given to explore the alternative models that are being talked about.

We will provide a document that sets out how any future provision would need to work in due course for those parties who have expressed an interest. Any submissions will then be considered by the Directors of Farmor's School who will make a decision going forward. We would aim to do this within a six month period. We have had initial discussion with the local council and will be continuing those discussions to identify any support that they are able to give.

Sports Centre Membership

We will identify those who have already paid their membership past the 31st August 2019 so that refunds can be provided. If you pay your membership by standing order, please remember to end it after 31st August 2019.

In summary, the position is therefore that the trading company will cease to operate after 31st August 2019, but community bookings will continue to operate, and the school will work closely with the local council to consider options for keeping a gym facility available to the local community. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult period.

With kind regards

Directors
Farmor's Sports Centre