



# Fulford School

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1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family and friends well.

## **Year 11 and Year 13**

We are approaching the time when year 11 and 13 pupils would traditionally start study leave in preparation for their exams. Since we have been working remotely it has been our primary aim to ensure pupils have finished their course and have a good understanding of the work covered. This best prepares pupils for further study and any exams that they may choose to sit after they receive their grades in August. We are now at a stage where all work has been completed by most pupils. As of next week, teachers will not be posting anymore work on Class Charts for year 11 and 13 pupils. Pupils should make sure that they have completed any remaining course content and are able to build on their knowledge and skills learnt. In order to allow for any catch-up, current work will remain on Class Charts.

Over the next few weeks departments will be posting transition work for pupils who are moving on to A level study. We are contacting colleges to identify any appropriate transition work for pupils who are taking this pathway. Transition work for year 13 will also be identified by the sixth form team.

We know and share the disappointment that we have not been able to celebrate the end of year for both year groups. Year 11 and 13 pupils and their families very much remain part of our community. We are still here to support pupils and families and when it becomes safe to do so we will organise celebration events.

## **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12**

We have listened to feedback from pupils, parents and carers and staff as we continue to develop remote learning. Pupils and parents and carers are generally positive about using Class Charts. It is a system that is known to pupils and enables clear communication between pupils and teachers as well as an opportunity for parents to monitor and support work. However there have been concerns about the number of announcements being made, the number of attachments being sent including some that needed to be printed and the amount of work that pupils are expected to do.

We do understand that there is often little time for parents and carers to be able to sit with their children due to demands of their own work and caring responsibilities. Also, the demands on computing equipment across the whole family can limit its access.

From next week:

- We will remove work related announcements. This will reduce the amount of information that pupils receive and need to process.
- We will reduce the quantity and frequency of work. We will aim to set work covering around half the normal curriculum time pupils would have at school.

- We will identify the time expected for a lesson to last and will post work in 'lesson sized chunks'. All work set within the week will have an end date within that week. We are moving towards all work being set on a Monday so pupils can organise their workload.
- Projects which last longer than a lesson will also be 'chunked' in order to give guidance on how much time is spent on them.
- We are reducing the number of attachments sent within lessons, and any need for them to be printed.
- We are increasing the variety of lesson resources including video.
- We are clearly identifying work that should be sent back to teachers for assessment.

We hope this will support pupils and their families. We know that work takes longer to do at home and hope that we can help create the right balance between continuing to study and progress along with having enough time and space to support good mental health and happiness.

Mr Walker will be forwarding a video that will support both parents and carers and pupils in making the best use of Class Charts. We will also be sending out a student wellbeing survey next week to find out pupils' feelings and how they are managing their workloads whilst working from home. We will continue to make contact with families at home and please do contact us at school if you need any further support.

Best wishes to you and your family.



Steve Lewis  
Head Teacher