





Fulford School

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of what has been an unprecedented term, I hope you and your family remain well and in good spirits. We understand the pressures that families are under and appreciate the kindness that has been shown. We have loved sharing the pictures of pupils, parents and carers and school staff exercising along with Joe Wicks in the morning. Mr. Walker's fancy dress Friday work out this morning was particularly impressive. Please do have a look on our twitter feed.

Pupil Work

Over the Easter holidays it is important that we all have a break. For most of us the school will close as normal this afternoon for two weeks. We will not be expecting any work to be done by pupils over the holidays. Teachers will not be setting any new work and will not be answering emails. I have attached a series of challenges to this letter which families may like to work through together. **This is not set work**, just some suggestions to perhaps try something different and keep active.

The school will remain open to **children of key workers** who have no other way of providing childcare whilst they are at work. We will not be providing education. If it is at all possible to keep your child at home and ensure social distancing, then that is what you should do.

I hope the introduction of weekly announcements from teachers has helped order the work that your child has been asked to do. We are reviewing the work we set regularly and trying to adapt it to meet the ongoing needs of pupils. As the amount of time we are away from school increases we must teach more work that is new to our pupil. We are trialling new ways of working including the use of videos and podcasts. We know that the introduction of email contact has helped improve feedback and we will be identifying specific pieces of work that should be returned to teachers via Class Charts for more formal assessment. In the case of Maths, English and Science this should be every 2 weeks. For other subjects it will be every 3 weeks. We will be prioritising Year 10 and 12 in the first instance.

Keeping in Touch

Please do keep a regular check on the announcements on Class Charts. I will write to you at least once a week and normally on a Friday to keep you up to date with what is going on at school. We have also been able to support access to Class Charts and answer specific queries from parents and carers. During normal school times our office is running with a reduced capacity. The best way to contact us is via email. As the majority of our staff are working from home our office staff can often direct query to the correct person more effectively via email than a phone call.

A Facebook group has been set up by a group of parents and carers to provide support and exchange tips and information during the school closure. If you are interested in making contact then please do so by searching Facebook for Parent Community (Fulford School Closure) or sending an email request to fulfordparentcommunity@yahoo.com

We have already contacted several families, and this will continue on a rolling basis. Someone from school will contact you just to check how things are and if you need any support. If you do feel that things are becoming increasingly difficult for you, we are here to listen and help. Please contact us. Also please look back at last week's letter where I sent a number of contacts that can also offer support.

Year 11 and 13

This morning there has been an announcement from Ofqual about how grades will be awarded to year 11 and 13 students. This can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>

I am also attaching the letter that the Chief Regulator for Ofqual has written to all pupils in the country. As you will see from the documentation schools will not be able to share the final predictions that will be sent to exam boards and we will not have surety that these will be the final grades awarded. As a school we will digest the information given and work with integrity to make sure that we assign a fair grade for each pupil. We understand that this may bring further anxiety to some and we will support pupils and families but cannot enter into any discussion as to what grade will be given.

It remains important that year 11 and 13 pupils prepare themselves for further study and the possibility of an examination should they wish to challenge a final grade. We will make sure we provide all pupils with the necessary work to complete their courses. Year 11 pupils have been given their latest mock grades by teachers prior to the school's closure. We will not be sending these out in a report, as had been planned. This will support the spirit of the Ofqual announcement.

Happy Easter

It is a very different Easter break to the one any of us were planning. We still, as a community and individuals, have many challenges ahead. We can be proud of the actions we are all taking to support each other in fighting the coronavirus. Every day we continue to self-isolate we are helping to slow the spread and save lives. We are thankful to the NHS and other key workers who are supporting us all and showing bravery and determination to do all they can to keep us safe and our country and communities functioning. I hope that over the holidays you are able to make contact, all be it remotely, with loved ones and also support those who are most vulnerable in our society.

I wish you all a very happy and safe Easter.



Steve Lewis
Head Teacher