



Fulford School

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Dear Parents and Carers

The national debate around the wider opening of schools continues. Wider opening remains conditional on the government's key criteria known as the five tests being met. A decision will be made on this towards the end of next week. Whilst there is guidance from the Department for Education on the wider opening of primary schools, we still await government guidance on the wider opening of secondary schools. Hopefully, this will be published later today.

We have continued to work collaboratively at a local, regional and national level to formulate as safe a return to school as possible for pupils and staff. We meet regularly with other school leaders of state schools in York. These meetings have weekly input from experts from Public Health England.

We along with all state secondary schools in York look to wider open for some pupils from the Monday 8th June. To support this ambition, we continue to do extensive planning. There remain several unknowns, not least the current lack of secondary guidance from the Department of Education. However, we have prepared safety protocols and are finalising our risk assessment, which will be shared with you prior to wider opening. We meet regularly with school governors and the trustees who will make final recommendations on wider opening and take the decision to do so.

As stated in my letter last week the safety of pupils, staff and the wider community is paramount in all decision making. We need to ensure social distancing and safe and consistent staffing in appropriate accommodation.

Face to face support will complement home learning set via Class Charts. It will not replace it.

Year 12

We aim for students to receive a one-hour session of face to face support for each A level subject they do per week. So, a student taking three A levels will receive 3-hour long sessions. These will take place Monday to Thursday and will be timed so that there will be no more than one session a day. It may be that the lessons happen in school or via online conferencing. We are still having discussions with staff over the best way to proceed.

Year 10

We aim for pupils to be in school for two days a fortnight. They will be consecutive days and on day one they will be supported in Maths, English and Science. On day 2 they will have support in two of their options subjects. They will have support in the other two subjects the next time they are in school. They will attend school in quarter year groups. This means there will always be less than 60 x Year 10 pupils on site at any one time.

On day one they will stay in the same classroom with a group of up to 15 pupils. This group will not change and the English, Maths and Science teacher will move to the class in rotation. Teachers will be subject specialists but not necessarily your child's regular teacher.

On day two the same children will attend school and move into separate option groups. The make up of the class will be different to day one and dependent on your child's option. They will again be taught by specialist teachers but not necessarily their regular teacher. There will be taught in a different classroom for each session.

For both year groups social distancing of 2m will be strictly adhered to and handwashing and appropriate hygiene will be followed. There will be clear signage around school identifying 2m distance and hygiene protocols.

Pupils that can travel to and from school either by foot or by bike should do so. If public transport needs to be used the necessary safety precautions should be taken. CYC has advised us that school buses will be in operation and will adhere to social distancing. They may not be able to accommodate all children in one pick up and dependent on demand may need to do several journeys.

We recognise that most students, those in Years 7 to 9, will not return to school this academic year and we will continue to prioritise home learning that provides both academic and pastoral support for pupils and families.

These are difficult times that often generate more questions than answers. We are taking a cautious approach and will always work to create the safest and most meaningful provision we can within the constraints we find ourselves in. As we approach another holiday, it is important that we take a break and benefit from doing different things with family and friends either within your households or remotely. Home learning will start again on 1st June.

We will continue to plan for the new half term and towards an 8th of June return for some. We will keep you informed of any change to that timeline. Full risk assessments and protocols will be shared prior to any return and we will review the situation daily.

I hope you have an enjoyable half term break and wish you and your family my very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Steve Lewis
Head Teacher



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