



# Fulford School

Fulfordgate, Heslington Lane, Fulford, York. YO10 4FY

T: 01904 633300 E: [office@fulford.york.sch.uk](mailto:office@fulford.york.sch.uk) [www.fulford.york.sch.uk](http://www.fulford.york.sch.uk)

27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family are remaining well and the week has brought rewards as well as the challenges the situation we find ourselves in brings.

We are trying not to send too many letters out to you, whilst also keeping you up to date. I hope this is a balance that is working for you.

## **Pupil Work**

We have used Class Charts to set work for pupils as this is a system that staff, parents and pupils are all used to. I know some of you have had problems with logging on and appreciate your patience as we have worked with you to rectify these issues. When we set up the work for pupils, we were unsure about how the system was going to operate but 5 days in we can adapt the way we are able to use it.

From Monday each curriculum area will send an announcement to your child welcoming them to their week of learning and directing them to the work that they should be doing for that week. Where a longer-term project has been set, they will break down the work that is expected to be done that week. The announcement will support pupils in doing the right amount of work in the right amount of time. We are also now able to open email contact up between all pupils and their teachers. Teachers will post their email addresses in their announcements and all teachers emails will be put on our website. Pupils can use these to ask for direction from their teacher.

For safeguarding reasons pupils must email using their school email account. Pupils should not use private email accounts. Teachers will not reply to these. It could be that the teacher replies via Class Charts or email, depending on which is the most appropriate way to address the concern. The teacher will reply as soon as they can. This is dependent on the number of pupils they are supporting at the time. If the teacher is unable to reply, due to illness for example, the curriculum leader will let the class know.

We will continue to review how the communication between pupils and teachers is working and the level and quantity of work we are setting. It is uncharted territory. Somethings will work better than others and we shall keep adapting our way of working to support the best interests of your child.

## **Year 11 and Year 13 Grading and Set Work**

Since the last update to all students and parents of Year 11 and Year 13, Ofqual has released two statements about when information will be available regarding the way in which students' grades are awarded in the summer. You will find these statements via the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-update-on-2020-exams>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-vocational-and-technical-qualifications-in-2020>

As you will see, neither gives any specific detail about the way in which grades will be awarded but the intention is that this will be released to us next week. As soon as we have this information, we will let you know. We understand the anxiety that this is creating, not only in terms of the grades that will be awarded but also in terms of the progression routes to Sixth Form, college, university and work.

As frustrating as it is, please note that we cannot give any further information or guidance to students or parents until we know more about the detail of this process. Until we do, we continue to expect students to complete the set work on Class Charts and to communicate with their teachers via their school email accounts. Although most of the content has been covered across Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 courses, there are inevitably some areas where there remains work to be done in order to achieve this. Given that we know there will be an opportunity for students to sit an exam in their subjects if they are unhappy with the grade awarded in the summer, it is crucial that the content is covered as best as possible, in order that students can access this exam if they choose to sit it.

### **Physical and Mental Health**

At this difficult time, it is important to look after both our physical and mental needs. To help us keep active, every day the school community will be joining Joe Wicks for some exercise and posting our attempts online. There is a daily 30-minute workout which is run live at 9:00am each day and which can be considered to be Period 1 for students (and parents and carers!). Alternatively, these videos are recorded and available via the same link. Please join us by visiting Joe Wicks on his YouTube channel PE with Joe:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1> <https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>

We would love to see how you get on, so do send your photos to [GodfreyM@fulford.york.sch.uk](mailto:GodfreyM@fulford.york.sch.uk) and we'll post them on our Facebook page! Please only send them if you are happy for us to publish them on our Facebook page.

Our present situation can also bring about an increased amount of stress and anxiety for both parents and pupils. By looking after each other in our different ways we are already doing our best. Some parents are however finding this time difficult and there are several support services out there that are offering help. For example, AnxietyUK - which can be found online - offers videos on coping with Coronanxiety and on Friday 27th March (6pm) there is a webinar on Parental Anxiety. Another useful website is Mind.org.uk which provides lots of tips on how to take care of your mental health and well-being.

It is also possible that some of pupils will be feeling anxious during this time, whether it is because of the cancellation of the exams, the change in routine or any other reason. YoungMinds.org.uk offers advice and is a useful contact point for any pupil. You know your child best and by talking to them you will be able to reassure and comfort them in a way that is appropriate to their needs. However, if you or your child need the school's help, please do get in touch. We are working together and are here to support in any way we can.

I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to staff, parents and carers and pupils. In difficult times you are doing a fantastic job. Our community is strong, and our values go deep. Continue to look after each other. Keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Steve Lewis  
Head Teacher



The South York Multi-Academy Trust.

Registered address: Fulfordgate, Heslington Lane, Fulford, York YO10 4FY.

A charitable company limited guarantee registered in England and Wales.

(company number:11082297)