



Fulford School

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18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have written my Christmas message in the newsletter which has been sent this afternoon to parents and carers, please do take time to read the newsletter, it gives a great insight into the day to day life of the school. I am particularly proud of the drive our pupils have to support others. This is exemplified by the phenomenal generosity of the donations to the York Food Bank.

Covid-19 Testing

I would like to thank you for keeping us so well informed around the COVID-19 tests your children have had, and particularly the prompt reporting of any positive cases via our COVID positive email address: positivecovid@fulford.york.sch.uk

If your son or daughter does show symptoms, please do seek a test. This is particularly important if symptoms develop this Saturday or Sunday as if the case is positive it will have an impact on children within school. They would need to self-isolate if they were identified as a contact. This will support other families who may be planning to form bubbles with older or more vulnerable family members and give the school time to inform contacts before the main Christmas period begins and any family bubbles are formed. Any symptoms that develop on or after Monday 21st December and result in a positive test need not be reported to school.

School Expansion

The consultation around the expansion of the school comes to an end in the new year. Please do take time to put your views forward. Without expansion, we will be at very real risk of not being able to offer places to children who live in catchment. You can take part in the consultation via the following link: <https://fulford.york.sch.uk/proposed-expansion>

Lateral Flow Testing

As I write this letter there is little clarity around how we are going to implement lateral flow testing. There are a number of news reports with differing levels of speculation including the use of the army and parent volunteers. We will be working closely with City of York Council, The York Schools and Academy Board and Public Health York to formulate plans. I have included a link with the latest information for schools published yesterday afternoon.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/staggered-rollout-of-coronavirus-testing-for-secondary-schools-and-colleges>

Staggered Return to School

What I am able to tell you is that we will have a staggered return to school after the Christmas holidays.

Fulford School in line with all secondary schools in York will abide by the guidance issued on the 17th December by the DFE and take the 4th of January as an additional day for preparation for mass testing. As a result, students will begin learning on the 5th January.

Year 11 and 13 will return on Tuesday 5th January. Lessons will continue as normal for Year 11. Year 13 will still continue with mock exams. Teachers of Year 13 will be available in normal timetabled classrooms. Mocks which would have happened on Monday 4th January will now be moved to Tuesday 12th January. School transport will continue to run. The main canteen will remain open and Year 13 may use it.

Vulnerable pupils and children of key workers will also return on Tuesday 5th January. They will remain in their bubbles and will access the same learning as pupils at home. Ms Metha will contact all pupils who have an EHCP today. If you are a key worker and would like your child to come into school, please email the school at office@fulford.york.sch.uk before Wednesday 23rd December letting us know and telling us your job role. If you have not contacted the school previously about the vulnerability of your child and circumstances have changed, please do let us know.

Pupils in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 will return to school on Monday 11th January. During the week commencing Tuesday 5th January they will be taught remotely by their regular class teacher. Apart from core PE and Personal Development, learning will take place through Microsoft TEAMS. If your child has not accessed TEAMS within the last 30 days of the Christmas term, login details will be sent to their school email address. An announcement will be posted on Class Charts that explains how students can access emails from home and that gives a guide to how to access Office 365 and TEAMS. Students should access their emails and then attempt login to Office 365 and Teams. If they have any issues accessing Office 365 or TEAMS they will be supported by the school and should contact office@fulford.york.sch.uk.

During the week pupils will follow their existing timetable and access lesson content when they would be due to have that lesson in school. Please note that some pupils have today been issued with a new timetable for January. This will come into effect on Monday 11th January and students should follow their current timetable for the 5th to 8th January. This is accessible through Class Charts.

We will still be running a pod system due to having some pupils in each year group on site. Lessons will start at the normal timetabled time but will finish earlier in order to give teachers time to move to different year pods to deliver their lessons.

Pupils should first join their team for tutor time on 5th January. This will allow us to identify any technical issues. There will be no further tutor times for the rest of the week but pupils will receive two video assemblies. One will be a school assembly from Mr Rosie and the other a year assembly from your child's Head of Year.

We are adapting to what is frankly an ill-timed government instruction and things may change at short notice, but it is important we are able to give you as much clarity as possible. We will strive to keep you as informed as possible.

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils remains paramount.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas.



Steve Lewis
Head Teacher



The South York Multi-Academy Trust.
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