



Fulford School

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

T: 01904 633300 E: office@fulford.york.sch.uk www.fulford.york.sch.uk

8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first week of remote learning, I would like to thank you all for your support. In a short period of time we have been able to provide a comprehensive online provision for all of our pupils. We have also been able to provide a safe working environment for vulnerable learners and children of critical workers.

We must remember that school closure was initiated in order to reduce the amount of interactions between children, the spread of infection and hence support the NHS in this difficult time. With this in mind can you please only use critical worker provision if it is not possible for your child to safely remain at home.

Curriculum Offer

We are sharing with you our full curriculum offer. We are very clear about the importance of maintaining a community connection with pupils and continuing to provide pastoral support. We understand the reaction to lockdown can be very different for different children and their family. We are here to support you. Teachers and tutors will have regular contact with your children. We will share assemblies and contact you if there are patterns of non-attendance to lessons. If your child is ill and cannot attend lessons, please continue to let us know.

Vocational Courses

We have communicated separately to Year 13 and 11 pupils around Btec and iMedia exams

GCSE and A Level

On Thursday morning Year 13 had an assembly and a video was posted for Year 11. Both addressed the issue of the cancellation of A Level and GCSE examinations. We empathise greatly with both sets of pupils. They have shown a great deal of resilience and fortitude.

Examinations assess knowledge and understanding at a point in time. The curriculum enables this knowledge and understanding to be gained. The curriculum will continue. It ensures pupils are prepared for the next stage in their learning journey. This may be A levels, university, college, an apprenticeship or the world of work. We will continue to teach the full curriculum and prepare pupils for these next steps. It is important that Year 11 and Year 13 pupils continue to fully engage in their learning. If they do, they will set down the appropriate knowledge and skills needed to access their next course and maximise their chances of success.

Even though there will not be exams, pupils will be assessed. The Secretary of State for Education has shared plans to base grades on a form of teacher assessment. We have been told teachers will receive training and support to ensure grades will be awarded fairly and consistently. We have no further information as to what this will mean in practice. Teachers are continually assessing pupil progress in a number of different ways. No one measure, for example a mock grade, will be used in isolation. We would expect to use a variety of evidence bases.

Until we get further clarification from central government we are unable to provide you with any more information. Please can I ask that pupils and parents don't speculate with staff on how the grade will be given. At this stage they simply do not know what the procedure will be and will not be able to answer any questions. Pupils are best served by working hard and demonstrating progress through attendance in lessons and completing work set.

The Year Ahead

We are at the very early stages of lockdown and school closure. We know we will not be fully opened again until at least February half term. We also know there is a possibility that the lockdown may last longer into the year. We will look to follow our normal yearly pattern of reports, information and options evening as possible. We aim to provide as much structure and normality as possible.

We will all have good days and days that are not so good. Our core values are for us all. Together we will do our best to find the best path possible through the difficulties we face, putting the best interests of our children at the centre of all we do.

With best wishes,



Steve Lewis
Head Teacher