



# Fulford School

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12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have sent out a separate letter to you in my role as CEO of SYMAT. I would like to echo my thanks to you for all that you have done in difficult circumstances to support your children and the school. It is much appreciated.

We will hopefully know much more around a return to school after the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We do know we will definitely be continuing with home learning for the first 2 weeks back after half term.

Our CPD sessions will also continue. They will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February during period 5 and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March also during period 5.

## **Year 10 and 11**

We are introducing independent learning tasks back into Year 10 and 11 following feedback from our surveys. In normal times there are differing opinions on the place around homework, this is more so during lockdown. Independent work is important in developing key skills. We are also very mindful of the extra pressure that some pupils are feeling.

Taking both into account, after half term we are asking teachers of Year 10 to set independent work for to a maximum of 30 minutes per subject per fortnight and for Year 11 for a maximum of 45 minutes per subject per fortnight. This work will consolidate work completed during online lessons, support pupils to revise for key assessments and address gaps in students' knowledge as a result of previous lockdowns. Where possible, teachers will set content which can be completed away from a screen. In some subjects it may be that tasks will take the form of ongoing project work. If, at any point, your child is having difficulty completing this work, they should contact their teacher. There will be no negative consequences. The work set in online lessons will remain the most significant support for pupils' progress. Work will be set via Class Charts and will be identified as homework tasks with a deadline given.

## **Assemblies**

Each year group has two assemblies posted per week. Assemblies are an important part of our school life. We expect all pupils to watch both assemblies, there is dedicated time available during tutor time on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Can I ask that you encourage your children to watch the assemblies and ask them about the messages that come from them. Hopefully they will set the scene for an interesting conversation.

## **Pupil Safety**

Pupils have received two important pieces of information this week around their safety. Tuesday was Safer Internet Day, a nationwide project aimed at keeping young people safe online. The focus this year was on understanding the dangers of 'fake news' and the lack of accuracy which information sourced online can contain. Mr Walker delivered an assembly which focused on this and shared further information with students via Class Charts.

There is lots of information for parents on our website to support parents in keeping their children safe online, this can be accessed via the 'Information for students and parents if you're worried about a child or need some support' section of our website. Pastoral staff are always available for you to talk to if you have any concerns.

Pupils have also had information shared with them on the dangers of misuse of the railway. This follows a request from Network Rail to share important information with pupils. Staff at Network rail shared concerning information around a recent increase in the incidents of young people in the York area trespassing on the railway network. The information shared with students is from the Network Rail campaign, You Vs Train, a dedicated website which features real-life stories of teenagers that have received life-changing injuries after coming into contact with the railway illegally.

Please reinforce the importance of both these messages with your children.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Lewis  
Head Teacher