



# 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)

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well as we approach the re-opening of school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. This letter aims to give you the reassurance and clarification you need as we plan to re-open safely for your children.

The school risk assessment is available on the school website and is very similar to that which was in place when the school closed on 4<sup>th</sup> January. The procedures that are being followed in school are also remaining very similar. Year groups will still be operating in bubbles; staying within these bubbles will be a vital expectation of all pupils on the return. We will continue to implement the range of measures we have had in place since the start of the academic year including a bus seating plan by year group on school buses, different entrances and exits, zoning year groups at break and lunch, staggered use of the canteen and staggered finish to the day.

I am sure that all pupils are eager to get back into the school and begin learning in the classroom again. We want our return to go as smoothly as possible. It is important that all pupils return to school with the correct uniform and equipment and a cooperative and positive approach. We would advise you to check the school website to ensure that items such as shoes are appropriate and within the guidelines. Also included on the website is guidance around presentation, including hairstyles and jewellery. We would urge you to check this so that we can make a positive start next week.

## **Face Coverings**

As you will have seen on the news, the Government have announced that it is expected that face coverings will be worn in classrooms as well as in indoor communal spaces. The Government will be reviewing this guidance after the Easter Holidays. Wearing a face covering on public transport remains a requirement. We will support this expectation as a measure to protect everyone in school, and in our community. It is in place to support the reopening of the school. We are all aware of the importance of this. We recommend that you send your child with a spare mask each day. Thank you in advance for your understanding on this point and I would be grateful if you could make your children aware of this in advance. There will be pupils and staff who have genuine reasons why they cannot wear face coverings. However, these do need to be genuine reasons and not just because they are uncomfortable or pupils just don't like wearing them. As a community we have a shared responsibility to each other. If your child has a medical exemption from wearing face coverings, then please let school know in writing and we will support them.

## **Pastoral Support**

To support with the return to school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March we are going to be holding a pastoral support day. On this day all pupils will have the opportunity to meet individually with their form tutor to discuss the return to school. The Sixth Form will be running Year 13 Progress Reviews. The Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year will also be meeting with selected pupils throughout the day.

Each pupil will be scheduled a 10 minute appointment. These will be sent to both parents and pupils on Class Charts. At this time, pupils will need to be logged into Microsoft Teams where their form tutor will invite them to the meeting. There will also be a chance to complete a short survey about remote learning and the return to school. The aim is to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to highlight their successes of remote learning but also to ensure any concerns are able to be dealt with efficiently and effectively.

Please find below the email addresses of the Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year for each year group. For any issues regarding the return to school, or in the future, please contact the relevant team and they will be able to support appropriately.

	Head of Year		Assistant Head of Year	
Year 7	Jamie Bonsels	bonselsj@fulford.york.sch.uk	Lindsey Butterfield	butterfieldl@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 8	Paul Gatenby	gatenbyp@fulford.york.sch.uk	Ellie Knox	knox@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 9	Simon Lacy	lacys@fulford.york.sch.uk	Allyson Rae	raea@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 10	Stuart Copeland	copelands@fulford.york.sch.uk	MJ Wood	woode@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 11	Fay Chapman	chapmanf@fulford.york.sch.uk	Elliot Cole	colee@fulford.york.sch.uk
Year 12	Matthew Gray	graym@fulford.york.sch.uk	Learning and Wellbeing Worker: stuarta@fulford.york.sch.uk	
Year 13	Kate Jenner	jennerk@fulford.york.sch.uk		

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March we will be having an extended form time during period 1. This will allow the key relationships between pupils and the form tutor to be further re-established. This time will allow pupils to be fully prepared and ready to learn when lessons commence in school following this. The Sixth Form will be using this time to begin Year 12 Progress Reviews and more information on this will follow from Mrs Davies later this week.

### Attendance

The Government has confirmed that attendance to school is statutory and parents/carers have a legal duty to ensure their child attends. We will follow our normal protocols for following up on non-attendance. This autumn term saw superb attendance figures throughout the school and we are keen that this continues; good attendance is linked to good progress and it is crucial all pupils take the opportunity to further their learning after a long period out of the classroom. If you wish to discuss attendance with the school, please contact us so that we can work together to meet this requirement.

### Lateral Flow Testing

Mr Lewis wrote to all parents on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February and outlined the plan for lateral flow testing to be completed. The long term aim for the testing is for pupils to be completing testing at home twice a week. The advice from the Government is that pupil should have 3 supervised tests before they start testing at home.

The tests are not mandatory, but participation in these tests is strongly recommended to keep our community safe and free from infection. Pupils will still be able to attend school if tests are not taken. Again this is an extra measure that has been put in place to enable the opening of school. There will continue to be debate around LFT. As a school we fully recommend that all pupils who are able to take these tests do in order to support in school provision of education and help protect the community. Testing is taking place in the community testing centres. Even if your child has not met with any other people during the lockdown there will have been situations where members of the family will have come into contact with others. The 3 supervised tests that are recommended before home testing begins will need to be carried out at the community testing centres. The link to book tests was sent out on Sunday evening. We do have testing facilities within school from 8<sup>th</sup> March. These will support pupils who need an extension of supervision if needed.

We await further guidance on the delivery and distribution of the home tests. Parents will be required to report the test result to both the NHS and to school. Further information about home testing will be given when we have a full plan based on the Government guidance. This testing process is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate and organise getting a test as per the guidance. LFT is not appropriate for anyone who has tested positive for Covid 19 in the last 90 days and should not be used.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your effort and support with the remote learning that has taken place over the last few months. Thank you again for your patience and understanding during this next phase. The reopening of schools is an important start in the Government's route map to the lifting of wider restrictions. It is important that we recognise that we are still in a pandemic and we must therefore adhere to the guidelines and work together to ensure a safe and confident return. I, along with all the staff, are looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school next week.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at [harrisr@fulford.york.sch.uk](mailto:harrisr@fulford.york.sch.uk)

Kind regards,



Russell Harris  
Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)