

Fulston Manor School

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Academy Trust Registered in England: Company No. 7343725

SBU/NFI

18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

RE: UPDATE – 18TH DECEMBER 2020

I am sorry to send another letter at the end of term but, as mentioned yesterday, the DFE announced a delayed return to school in January for some pupils. This is to allow time for us to prepare for the introduction of lateral flow testing in schools, which we are to be asked to plan and deliver.

As is perhaps to be expected, there is a limited amount of information about what is to be done in the New Year available at present. What seems likely is that staff in schools will be offered a lateral flow test weekly and pupils who are 'contacts' of a positive case will be offered daily testing for a number of consecutive days to prevent the need for contacts to self-isolate. No-one will be obliged to have a test in school and we will need to have consent from parents/guardians for tests to be undertaken.

Schools are to be asked to recruit and train staff, establish testing rooms and protocols and administer these tests in schools. Given that we are on the cusp of the Christmas break and that schools will be closed for the next two weeks, it will not be possible to fully prepare for these tests to be administered for the start of term on Monday, 4th January 2021. Therefore, the DFE have announced the intention for secondary school pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and Year 12 to receive remote learning at home for the first week of the new term, to allow schools time to plan for the delivery of lateral flow tests in week commencing 11th January 2021. It is hoped that this is the date that all pupils will be able to return to school. Pupils in Years 11 and 13 should return to school on Monday, 4th January 2021 (as long as they are not self-isolating nor displaying coronavirus symptoms). Students in Year 12 that study LIBF Financial Studies, AQA Applied Business Unit 1 or Health and Social care should come in for those timetabled lessons only and then leave.

We will also be making provision for pupils who are considered 'vulnerable' and those whose parents are key workers. There is no obligation for such pupils to attend, but they are welcome to do so. We will be making computers available for these children to complete the same remote working as their peers are doing at home. In order to allow us to prepare for these students being on site, we will need parents/guardians of children that fall into these categories to please complete an online form by the 31st December. Please complete this here: [Request Key Worker/Vulnerable Child Provision 4th-8th Jan](#)

I am sorry to rather spring this on you on the last day of term and I realise that these arrangements for the first week back may present difficulties for some families. We will, however, ensure that there is blended learning for all pupils for this period of time and we will be doing all we can to have all children back in school as soon as possible.

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One final point to note is that we are going to need to find ways to staff the testing of children and we do not, by definition, have lots of spare capacity in school. It has been suggested that some of this work could be done by volunteers. These volunteers would be provided with training, PPE and (one assumes) access to regular testing themselves. I know that this is not something many of you will be able to do and nor is it something that you may want to do. That said, there may be some parents/guardians who have the capacity and would be prepared to volunteer to support in this work. I may yet come back to you in January to ask whether you wish to consider acting as a volunteer in this capacity, so please give it some consideration.

In summary, pupils in Years 11 and 13 should return to school as planned on 4th January 2021. As things stand, and unless you hear otherwise from me, pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and Year 12 will receive remote learning for that first week (except for the Finance/Business and Health & Social Care lessons identified above for Year 12 which will take place in school). Anyone who wishes their child to attend school because they are key workers or because your son/daughter is 'vulnerable' should contact us on the form above. I will communicate with you again in the New Year with further information about the lateral flow testing arrangements when we have them.

Finally, thank you for your patience, understanding and support relating to this matter and to the other challenges we have faced over recent weeks and months. I wish you all a peaceful and very merry Christmas.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Burden', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Burden
Head of School