

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Closure for COVID-19**

Following the government's announcement yesterday, from 2pm on Friday 20th March The Fulham Boys School school will be closed until further notice.

This will be the case for the vast majority of boys, however, as far as possible, it will remain open to specific groups of boys. These groups include children of key workers and disadvantaged pupils.

#### **Key Workers**

- If you are a key worker, and you intend to send your son into school during the closure period, please could you complete the attached google form [here](#) in order that we can plan resources accordingly. As it stands, the government has defined key workers as Police, National Health Service workers and delivery persons. We have added an option called, 'Other' as we expect the list to change today.

#### **Disadvantaged Pupils**

- Disadvantaged pupils means those who have an Education Health Care Plan or/and have a social worker working with them. We will be in contact with these families shortly to put the necessary arrangements in place.

I will meet with my Senior Leadership Team on Friday morning to put this plan together and send out to those families by midday on Friday.

#### **All other pupils**

- Information will be made available on our school website, via email, and a hard copy letter will be given to boys who are still in school to bring home on Friday afternoon.
- All work during the school closure will be set on Google Classroom for every subject. We also encourage boys to set time aside to read and undertake fitness activities.
- Heads of Department, Heads of House and members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will follow up with boys and keep in contact with parents where required.
- It is therefore vitally important that your son has a chromebook or access to or another suitable device at home in order to complete work and access to an internet connection. If your son does not have access to the internet at home or a suitable working device, please contact the school reception by telephone or via email [info@fulhamboysschool.org.uk](mailto:info@fulhamboysschool.org.uk)

- On our website, there is a link to practical help for parents and boys during this period of closure. Among other things, this includes how you can support your son with his reading.
- All events in the school calendar will be cancelled while we are closed including GCSE Easter revision sessions.
- Many school trips have already been cancelled and we are working with trip providers to arrange refunds to parents. Please bear with us while we resolve these matters.

### Year 11

- As I am sure you are also aware, the government announced yesterday that GCSE exams will not take place in May and June. As I write this, I do not know if or when Year 11 will sit their GCSEs. It could be that boys will sit them in the Autumn or, more likely, it could be that the school will be required to give the boys projected levels. If that is the case, we would then be required to give evidence of the boys' work to back up the level we have awarded. You must keep all marked assignments. It is therefore imperative that Year 11 boys work as hard as they can, completing all assignments and submitting all their work to achieve the highest level possible. This is an uncertain time for our students, but it is an opportunity to use it to your advantage and work hard.
- Sixth Form offer letters which were sent out yesterday still stand. We will revisit this when we reopen.

### Year 12

- As with GCSE exams there will not be any AS exams taking place this summer. However, at the moment the A level examinations in summer 2021 will go ahead as scheduled. This means it is really important that boys keep on top of their work and continue to complete the course. As always, teachers will support in this so please keep in regular contact with them via Google classroom and email.

### Future Communication

- I will communicate updates to parents via email, text message and will also publish regular updates via the school website.
- Boys will be able to communicate with their teachers via email.
- Parents can email [info@fulhamboysschool.org.uk](mailto:info@fulhamboysschool.org.uk) which will be monitored by a member of the support staff daily who will manage queries and determine the most appropriate person to deal with the query. They will also check the school phone daily. We are committed to supporting you as much as possible during this unprecedented time.
- I also plan on doing a Podcast once a week for boys and parents.

## Practical Help

- When we close, I imagine it will be a difficult time for everyone and we do not want you to feel isolated or to be in need. To that end we are making plans to support students entitled to free school meals and looking into how we can set up a food bank. We will let you know more about these plans as they evolve.

## Re-Opening

- On re-opening, school will continue according to the school calendar as much as possible
- Events which have had to be cancelled will be rescheduled as appropriate.

These are unprecedented and uncertain times. I do not know what the next few weeks and months will hold. What I do know is that we now, more than ever, must draw on the famous FBS spirit. It has got us to where we are today and will get us through this current crisis, better and stronger. While we may not see each other for a while, be assured we are in this together.

My best advice in these times is actually not my advice at all, but found in Psalm 121.

Cymer ofal,

Mr. Alun Ebenezer

**Headmaster**