

Fairfield Live! Update 3 29th January 2021

Dear parents and carers

Thank you very much for another positive week of home schooling! Attendance has continued to be good; we know that there are inevitably times when more than one person in the house may need to use the computer, which can sometimes make it difficult to attend lessons. Please encourage your children to use another device eg a mobile phone to take part in their lesson.

Engagement with work has also been good; we are doing our best to gauge whether there is too much or too little to do, or whether it's just right! It's useful for staff when students give feedback via Google Classroom if they have found a task too difficult or it has taken too long. One thing we are finding is that some students are not really following their school timetable, but are 'stockpiling' tasks and then ending up with lots of deadlines to meet all at once and putting themselves under pressure. Teachers are trying to give a 30 -40 minute task for each lesson that is not a 'live' lesson; if the timetable is followed then there shouldn't be much extra to do outside of normal school hours, especially for Key Stage 3 students. Keeping up a routine similar to a school day is really important; we won't be going back over the areas of the curriculum we have taught during lockdown once school returns.

We are using email as our primary way of sending out information so please check your inbox regularly. Next week there is a national focus on young people's mental health and wellbeing; please do look at the information and helplines on our website if you need support – we are always here for you too.

The consultation about GCSE exams ends today and there will no doubt be all sorts of reports and speculation in the media as to what the ultimate outcome will be. Please try not to worry – if the past year has taught me anything, it is to wait until official confirmation is given and not to believe everything I read! As soon as we have information, we will let you have it.

We do know that school will not be reopening for everyone until March, and when we have clear information we will be sharing that with you. School will be closed to everyone over the half term holiday, including key worker children. We will be contacting those families separately who are entitled to free school meals to arrange vouchers etc.

Best wishes for a safe and happy weekend (preferably snow free!)

Sue Gaston

Sue Gaston
Head Teacher