



## The Federation of St Francis Special School Lincoln and Lincoln St Christopher's School

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28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **RE: Student and parent wellbeing**

I hope that you are all safe and well. I am aware that for some parents the quantity of the information that I send out can be overwhelming therefore I have decided to alter my letter approach to parents so I will put at the beginning of my letters key statements in bold with the major information and then underneath will provide more detail for those parents who would like to know more. I hope this helps more parents to feel like they are able to access the information sent out to them.

#### **Summary information:**

- 1. Government have confirmed schools will remain closed until at least 8<sup>th</sup> March.**
  - 2. A parent questionnaire has gone out to parents, we would appreciate your feedback**
  - 3. Wellbeing day for students and families on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February**
  - 4. We have a remote learning plan that outlines our approach on our website.**
1. Many of you will have heard the announcement yesterday that schools will remain closed to all except keyworker and identified vulnerable students until at least the 8<sup>th</sup> March. I understand that this will cause many parents and students to feel disheartened and frustrated. We will continue to support those identified keyworker and vulnerable students in school with the current model after February half term. Free school meal vouchers will also continue after half term.
  2. Thank you to those parents who have already responded to the questionnaire sent out yesterday, we have had 88 responses on the first day. If you haven't had chance, please can I ask you to feedback to us as the information we have already received has been invaluable and has allowed us to reflect on our practice and make some adjustments. This questionnaire can be found on parent mail. A paper version will go out today for those parents who do not have parent mail with a stamped envelope to respond.
  3. We are aware that for many families and students being away from school, often having to do more online can have an impact on students and families mental health and wellbeing, not being able to do 'normal' activities and the winter months not helping the situation. Therefore we are going to hold a Wellbeing day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. This will be a day when there are no formal lessons but instead the teacher would meet with the class and do activities that support their mental wellbeing. In addition we will have the senior leadership team and wellbeing team available all day on that day to speak over the phone or via Teams to any parents who feel like they need some support with their own mental health and wellbeing.
  4. The staff have been working hard to agree a remote learning plan that takes into account the range of needs within the school, recognising that for some routine and structure is important and for other families having the flexibility helps to keep students engaged in their learning. We know that for parents often with more than one child in different schools that challenge of home learning can lead to conflict or parents feeling challenged by the expectation to take on the role of educator. In the plan we have provided some guidance

about the amount of work that we feel is appropriate however we know that this will be different for each child and want to work together to provide a supportive remote learning experience for the students and parents/carers. Equally we know that students and parents have different feelings about using technology for remote learning with some very keen to have live lessons and others not wanting to engage in this platform which is why we try and provide a blended package of support. The remote learning plan is attached but also on our website.

Please stay safe and look after each other and do not hesitate to contact us if you need any support.

Yours sincerely,

Kyna Adkins

*Kyna Adkins*

Head teacher