



# Fulneck School Inform

Autumn Term 2020

Issue 1

## A Note From The Principal



A very warm welcome to the first edition of our new look Inform and my thanks to Clare Humphreys, our Senior School librarian, who is responsible for compiling the stories and editing the copy.

We felt that a whole-school Inform would be a better way of letting you know what is going

going on all the way through the School, from our new pre-schoolers all the way to our university applicants. With sports fixtures and day trips in abeyance for the foreseeable future, we will also be able to tell you more about the everyday exciting endeavours of our pupils.

A particular welcome to the families of our fifty one new starters this September. I hope that you experience exactly the same warmth and community spirit from the start as we did as a family just over two years ago. We now have more day pupils in the School than at any point since 2016, a telling reminder of the sheer loyalty that you have shown us, though inevitably our overseas boarding numbers are down temporarily due to the pandemic.

We also welcome five new members of staff. It's a pleasure to introduce our new Head of Fulneck Junior School, Michelle Blanchard, Head of English in the Senior School, Julie Gleeson, teacher of Maths and Economics, James Omran, teacher of PE and Head of Netball, Charlotte Sutcliffe, and professional netball coach, Mark Boocock. Our Sixth Form leadership team has been busy interviewing them so that you can get to know them better via social media.

As I write, the newly announced Government restrictions are due to take effect shortly. We made the decision in the summer to adapt the conditions for secondary schools located in areas of local lockdown. With rates also continuing to rise in Leeds, it seems likely that the wearing of face coverings in indoor communal areas and corridors in the Senior School and whilst queuing for lunch will continue for some time.

As I said in my end of year review last July, I am frustrated that certain areas of school life won't take place in the usual way. Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day, for example, will be pre-recorded this year, played to our pupils in their form rooms and made available to you via social media. I think it is also very unlikely that we will be able to celebrate Christingles in person.

Current Government advice also prohibits overseas or overnight trips and tours. I met earlier this week with our trips and tours leaders to discuss what the programme might look like once we can start running overseas trips again, probably from September 2021. I will then share with you a revised version of the three year schedule which will then allow you to plan financially for the future.

I think we also have to be realistic about the possibility of members of our community testing positive for Covid-19 given its prevalence in our area. I believe that there are now 22 schools in Leeds alone that have reported positive cases. The action that we would need to take is determined by advisers on a new Department for Education hotline. As a School, we are continuing to work with our teachers on improving our remote learning provision should one of our bubbles need to close.

As I mentioned in this week's Senior School assembly, I especially feel for our pupils in Year 11 and the Upper Sixth, in particular the latter group who are making choices about their futures without even being able to visit the universities in most cases. We are still waiting for further guidance from the Government regarding the possibility of their exams being delayed further into the summer to give more time for preparation. In the meantime, as I said to them, they can only control what they can control – keep working as hard as possible to prepare for those exams and impress their teachers should we again play a part in the assessment.

Of course, all is not negative and I hope you will enjoy reading about our first few weeks back as a school community. I have a tough weekend ahead: this week I have interviewed six incredible candidates for the roles of Heads of School and I now need to make a very difficult decision. In a sense, I know I can't go wrong because all six personify those values of "Work Hard, Be Kind" that we've emphasised over the last two years.

With very best wishes for the weekend.

## Dates For The Diary

**Monday 12th October-  
Friday 16th October** Open Week (Tours by appointment only)

**Friday 16th October** Half Term Commences

**Monday 2nd November** Term Recommences

# Boarding Update

We are delighted to have reunited our boarding community after what has been a lengthy enforced break. The first few weeks have flown by and the boys, girls, and staff have been busy catching up after not seeing one another for a long time.

Along with the boarders, we have also welcomed back Mrs Shirley Whitehead as our full-time Head of Boys' Boarding, replacing Mr Rhoades who has returned to a teaching role in our day school. Mrs Whitehead, along with our School Nurse, Sheila Stanley, and the rest of our boarding team, have been working incredibly hard to re-establish a warm, family atmosphere across both of our boarding houses.

Our boarding community is drawn from all around the world – including Zimbabwe, Iraq, UAE, Hong Kong, China, Russia, Nigeria and across the UK - and we are proud of the international diversity that this brings to our school. Already, we've seen our boarders share international stories and food from their home countries.

**Mrs Whitehead**  
**Head of Boys' Boarding**  
**SAW@fulneckschool.co.uk**



**Mrs Shepherd**  
**Head of Girls' Boarding**  
**TLS@fulneckschool.co.uk**



Our first weekend back at Fulneck was beautiful and sunny so we decided to take a walk to one of our favourite places across the valley – Goodall's Ice Cream Parlour and Farm, where we indulged in our favourite ice-cream flavours and enjoyed the Yorkshire sun.

Our boarders' council met for the first time last week and has already planned some fun events and activities for the coming term - including the Mid-Autumn festival next week. We can't wait to eat more dumplings made by our international boarders!

# Boarding Makeover

Over the summer having an empty boys Boarding House has given us the opportunity to refurbish some key areas. The boys now have a newly decorated lounge for film nights and a separate games room, complete with air hockey table and games console. The two separate areas mean that the boys have more space to relax and enjoy their downtime, whilst also giving the House a more homely feel.



# Flexible Boarding Options

We offer flexible boarding options at Fulneck to support the busy lives of our parent community. It can also enable students to make the most of what is on offer after school. If you are in need of a few days support here and there, or would like to take a look at our boarding facilities please contact Mr Potts at RJP@fulneckschool.co.uk. We ask for a minimum of a week's notice for the days that you require your child to board and they must be in Year 7 or above.

# Admissions

For any Admissions enquiries including school tours, please contact our Admissions Manager Livija Uskalis at LAU@fulneckschool.co.uk or on 0113 257 0235. We offer a 5% discount for each additional sibling attending the school. (T&C's apply).



## New Staff - Welcome to Fulneck

**Ms Blanchard**  
Head of Junior School



**Mrs Gleeson**  
Head of English



**Mr Omran**  
Maths and Economics



**Miss Sutcliffe**  
PE and Head of Netball



## PFA Update

Our PFA pre loved uniform shop is currently running by requests. We have a stock list that can be sent out and we hold items for all year groups from Pre-School right through to Seniors. Prices start from just £2. Please do get in touch with any questions at [pfa@fulneckschool.co.uk](mailto:pfa@fulneckschool.co.uk)

If you are interested in joining the PFA to help fundraise, please drop us an email at [pfa@fulneckschool.co.uk](mailto:pfa@fulneckschool.co.uk)

The PFA also have a Facebook page, please like and follow our page for any updates from us: Parents and friends of Fulneck.

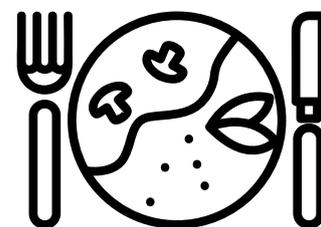
## Charity Update



During the last academic year, Fulneck School supported SNAPS (Special Needs and Parent Support) through various fundraising events and activities including several non-uniform days, a bingo event and by selling and distributing Valentine's flowers to name but a few. Sadly due to the pandemic, our fundraising efforts were cut short and we were unable to continue raising money for this fantastic charity. With this in mind, we have decided not to hold the usual whole school vote to decide on a new charity to support, but instead to carry on with what we started and continue to raise money for SNAPS. Despite the school closing in March, we still managed to raise an incredible £1,967.86 and once our new charity committee has been established, we will hold our first meeting to begin planning for the coming year, watch this space...

## School Menu

At Fulneck, school meals are provided by Wilson Vale. They quality control everything that goes on in our kitchens and all food and meals will be freshly prepared on site using locally sourced ingredients. The children will benefit from fresh ingredients in all meals, ranging from freshly baked bread and home-made yoghurt to slow roasted joints of meat and locally sourced fresh vegetables. Should you wish to view what your child is eating in school, please go to the school website or click the image on the right.



## Fulneck Sport



It has been great to see all of our students back in school after a long break and resuming with their PE & Games lessons. Our Extra-Curricular sports programme is now in full flow and participation rates have been excellent. Our students have certainly been working hard on their fitness and skills in preparation for when school sports fixtures return. Please continue to follow us on Twitter @FulneckSport for updates and stay tuned for the next edition of the School newsletter, where our Heads of Sport will be providing an update on our key performance sports: Football, Netball and Cricket.

# Junior School

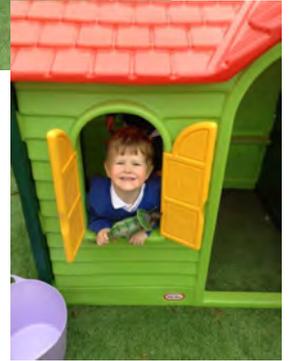
## Pre-School



Our Pre-School has warmly welcomed many new starters into its stimulating, vibrant and modern setting. New pupils to the school have joined existing Pre-Schoolers and become a 'bee' or a 'ladybird!' Given that due to current restrictions, parents have been unable to enter Pre-School and support their child on arrival, they have each settled quickly into their daily routine and are forming lovely friendships with each other. The Pre-School team are immensely proud of how all of the children have coped and adapted to the situation.

The little ones are excited and eager to use all the fantastic resources that the Pre-School has to offer. The cosy home corner is a popular place to dress up, develop imagination and engage in lots of role-play.

Other pre-schoolers like to take advantage of the spacious areas for construction and 'small world' play during free choice learning. In the messy room, the little ones have been exploring with the water and sand as well as developing their creative skills with the painting and sticking activities available. The children have loved using the balance bikes, scooters and slide in the new astro turfed outdoor area. Venturing to the East Gym or outside for the weekly P.E. sessions has certainly been an adventure in itself! The children have been practising learning new songs and the actions to go along with them. In addition to this, they have enjoyed their first Spanish lesson this week! Oh what fun they are all having!



## Reception



Using the Story book, 'The Colour Monster' Reception Class have enjoyed exploring feelings and relating these to different colours. The children have created models,

designed monster faces, made colour jars and a

definite favourite was exploring what monster faces each child could pull!



## Year 1

Year 1 have taken their maths learning outside this week! Pupils collected leaves and investigated what number bonds could be made with them, splitting them between two circles and then writing the matching number sentence. Who said maths has to be done inside!



## Year 3

Year 3 have been studying flags from around the world. They have chosen their favourite ones, painted them, whilst also discovering their origin of design.



## Year 5

### Shoebox Portraits



The children in Year 5 have been extremely busy making their very own Shoebox Portraits. They were given the task of decorating an empty box with materials of their choice and then filling it with personal items that reflected

their personalities. The children loved sharing their special items with the class during a 'Welcome Back' PSHE session. We all enjoyed listening to why their items held sentimental value, whilst learning more about one another's interests and personalities.



### I'm a Celebrity (Times Tables Edition)

Year 5 have been challenging themselves to Bushtucker Trials and Dingo Dollar Challenges during Maths this week! Our new times tables learning challenges encourage the children to recite their tables in order, out of order and learn division facts. Their efforts are awarded with an 'I'm a Celebrity' based award!



## Religious Studies

In the Junior School, all children are following a programme of study looking at all six world religions as well as Humanism.

This term Year 6 are studying Sikhism and we have learnt about Guru Nanak Dev Ji and how he founded the religion. The children have offered thoughtful insights into the caste system that existed at the time and have discussed tricky themes such as equality.

Year 5 have begun the term by studying Buddhism, learning about Siddhaata Ghotama – a rich Indian prince who left his life of luxury behind to find enlightenment. We have debated whether suffering can ever be prevented.

Year 4 have been studying Islam, in particular the life of the prophet Muhammad – from his tragic early life to his founding of Islam. At the same time, we have learnt a little more about the Middle East and how the countries have changed over the years.

In Year 3, the children have been looking at Christianity, including Jesus' life and death. This week we have studied the tricky concept of the Holy Trinity and how Christians believe in one God, but he is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Year 2 have been learning about Judaism, including telling stories about Abraham and his ancestors. This week we studied the stories of Moses' life, including how his mother put him in a basket and how an Egyptian princess rescued him.

This term in Year 1, we are studying the Christmas story in detail, which is an important festival in the Christian calendar. However, we are also learning that it has lots of traditions that people from all faiths join in with, including Christmas lunch and putting up Christmas trees. We learnt about the first Christmas and how traditions began.

## Writing Competition

Every year, pupils from Fulneck School enter the Society of Heads competitions for excellence in written English. The Society of Heads represents headteachers from across the country and their competitions attract many entries.

Last summer, we were delighted when two of our pupils won prizes in their respective age ranges in the 100 words competition. Poppie was placed 3rd overall in the Year 5 and 6 category and Danniella, with the entry printed below, won the Year 3 and 4 category.

Well done to you both!

I spy with my little eye ...  
Five stairs leading to a house,  
I spy with my little eye ...  
Two shoes fit for a mouse.

I spy with my little eye ...  
One telephone quietly ringing,  
I spy with my little eye ...  
One girl mouse beautifully singing.

I spy with my little eye ...  
One candle flickering on a wall,  
I spy with my little eye ...  
One Daddy mouse waiting for a call.

I spy with my little eye ...  
One Mummy mouse in front of a picture OF ME!!!  
I spy with my little eye ...  
ONE THREE COURSE MEAL FOR MY TEA!!!



## Senior School

### Research Achievement



The Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS) develops opportunities for both secondary and post 16 students from all backgrounds to participate in authentic research in school and make valuable, recognised contributions to the scientific community.

One of the main projects is the decoding and annotations of the genome of the human whipworm, *Trichuris trichiura*. The parasitic worm causes a Neglected Tropical Disease linked to malnutrition and cognitive developmental problems.

This ground-breaking project allowed our research orientated Sixth Form student, Polina, to take part in a research effort alongside other students from other schools in order to improve the health of their peers in different countries. Because of their contribution, scientists are more than halfway towards completing the annotation of the protein-coding gene set.

Polina has experienced the frustration felt by researchers when the learning pace was steep and complex, but also the satisfaction of seeing the usefulness of her work. She was awarded the IRIS certificate for participation. Congratulations on your resilience and effort, Polina.

## Poetry Success

The growing momentum of the #BlackLivesMatter and anti-racism campaigns over the summer certainly struck a chord with our diverse pupil body. Aimee (now Year 8) wrote down her thoughts as a poem and entered the Anne Frank Trust schools' competition. Her excellent entry (reproduced below) is part of the Trust's showcase.

### Black Lives Matter

Everyone is unique, on the inside and out,  
But if you're targeted every day, then you might start to have doubts.  
So why are people racist, when everyone deserves a chance?  
No freedom till we're equal, and for that we'll take a stance.

It takes one horrible word for someone's heart to shatter,  
So we will fight until there is justice, because black lives matter.

Imagine being scared because of the colour of your skin.  
This will not go on any longer, racism won't win.  
We will protest together, till black people have their rights,  
From dusk till dawn, through the days and the nights.

It takes one horrible word for someone's heart to shatter,  
So no stopping until our voices are heard, because black lives matter.

We know we will never know how it feels, but we will fight for you too,  
Anti-racism is what we want, non-racist won't do.  
Every generation has tried to make segregation stop,  
But we are gonna put this to an end, our hard work cannot flop.

Why are we fighting this battle? Why does racism have to exist?  
The years of justice and equality, our earth has missed.  
But there is no stopping now, our job isn't done,  
We will continue until there is peace, and rights for everyone.  
You don't get everything handed to you on a silver platter,  
But one thing is for sure, black lives do matter.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

### Let's talk about feelings

This week in PSHEe we have been talking about feelings. Learning to identify and express feelings in a positive way helps children develop the skills they need to manage them effectively.

Children who learn to manage their emotions and express them in healthy ways are more likely to:

- Be empathetic and supportive of others
- Perform better in school and their career
- Have more positive and stable relationships
- Have good mental health and wellbeing
- Display less behavioural problems
- Develop resilience and coping skills
- Feel more competent, capable and confident
- Have a positive sense of self worth



## Mental Health and Wellbeing Continued...

It's important to remember that children experience complex feelings just like adults. They get frustrated, excited, nervous, sad, jealous, frightened, worried, angry and embarrassed. However, they sometimes lack the vocabulary and/or skills required to talk about how they are feeling. Instead they communicate their feelings in other ways; through facial expressions, body language, behaviour and even play. Sometimes they may act out their feelings in physical, inappropriate or problematic ways. This does not mean that there is something wrong with them! It simply means they are struggling to manage their feelings and are trying to express themselves the only way they know how.

So, what can you do to help your child learn about and express their feelings:

- Tune into your child's feelings by observing their behaviour and listening to what they're saying.
- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings.
- Talk about your own feelings.
- Help them identify and label their feelings.
- Praise your child when they talk about their feelings and express them in an appropriate way.

Finally, share your concerns with a teacher, form tutor or Head of House. Working with the teacher can give you an even better understanding of your child.

### Useful website:

<https://www.mindfullittleminds.com/help-your-child-manage-emotions/>

## E-Safety

### Let's talk about YouTube



#### What is it?

YouTube is a video sharing website and app that allows users to share, view and upload videos via mobile, tablet, laptop and desktop computer. In its early format, most videos were uploaded by individual users showing home-made footage, but in more recent years, film clips, television programmes and music videos have been uploaded by organisations as well as individual users.

#### How much does it cost?

Most of YouTube's revenue comes from advertising and so, predominantly, it is free to use. There is no cost to register or to upload videos and the majority of the videos are free to view.

#### Does YouTube have any age restrictions?

You can register for a YouTube account from the age of 13 in the UK. When registering, if a date of birth is entered that indicates you are below the age of 13, account registration will be disabled. Some videos on YouTube have an adult age restriction if YouTube deems them to contain potentially inappropriate content. These are only available to registered users who claim to be 18 years old or older.

However, you do not have to register with YouTube to view most videos. If your child is using YouTube and is not registered, a warning sign will appear for any video flagged as age-restricted, and will ask the user to register to confirm their age. As with most other social media platforms, YouTube does not verify the age entered which means you need to keep an eye on what your child looks at on YouTube as inappropriate content can surface even with the most harmless search.

In 2015, YouTube develop YouTube Kids for 7-year-olds and older to have a safer space. The site, which is managed by YouTube, contains music, content made by the users, TV shows like Thomas and Friends or Winnie the Pooh and educational videos. It doesn't look anything like YouTube—it's colourful, has silly sounds, easy picture-based navigation, and funny visuals. It has some parental controls: a timer; this allows you to set a time limit on how long your child uses the app. However, there's no way to set filters on what your child searches. So, it's probably better to block the search function.