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Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Hello and welcome to our weekly update.

I'd like to first of all thank you for the feedback I am receiving from parents and students to let me know how grateful you are for the commitment and hard work which our staff continue to show, even after the unexpected length of time of this pandemic. The email sent to me below emphasises this gratitude:

***'Thank you and all of your staff for the high-quality lessons that have so far been delivered under such short notice last week. Your staff are a credit to the school and my daughter has been happily and diligently getting on with her studies. I applaud you all for this. To have lessons that she can independently manage and feel confident about are, therefore, a definite plus.'***

Thank you to the above parent for taking the time to do this, especially after Gavin Williamson's crass comment last week asking parents to complain to Ofsted about schools. This is a difficult time for everyone, and as such, we must feed each other with confidence and positivity.

Despite all the positive comments, we are still continually trying to improve our online service. The survey below gives you an opportunity to let us know what is working well and where we could do better. Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Muld21g0TUSFRSKJe3Yn28skfPLgTTdOIIxjRP7z0v1URU02UEdEUzkzNUZBTzBORVE1Q0xWUzRWQi4u>

### **Lateral Flow Tests.**

You will have received a letter and a consent survey from me regarding Lateral Flow Tests. Please can you complete the survey by Friday 22 January. I will emphasise these tests are completely voluntary. We have undertaken all the Government training, as well as taking advice from Ian Farmery, a new appointment by the Trust who will lead on LFT. Ian has been leading the test site at the Humber Bridge and is vastly experienced in this area. We have a team who are undertaking the necessary training and four are from a medical or nursing background. We are fortunate to have had numerous volunteers from the community; thank you to everyone who stepped forward and volunteered their services. We are hoping to start testing next week with the students and staff who are in school, in preparation for a full roll out when we all return. As always, we will do our very best to make sure that this next phase of our work follows all the guidelines provided by the Government and the expert advice provided by Ian.



## Student well being

Just because the school is partially closed doesn't mean that we are no longer interested in the wellbeing of our students who are not with us in school as members of our key worker and vulnerable cohort. We are still here to support you and your child(ren) and there is always someone in school whom you can contact regarding any wellbeing concerns.

We know the current situation can cause increased stress and anxiety within families. Please find in the attachments some advice and guidance which might help you in supporting your child(ren) during this time and please also refer to the Safeguarding section of our website for information previously shared. If you are concerned about your child(ren)'s wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact the school and your message will be passed on to the relevant member of our pastoral team who will get back to you. Your child(ren) will also be receiving regular check-ins from form tutors and, if vulnerable and not accessing a place in school, from a key worker. If we feel we cannot provide the help you need, we will be able to signpost you to someone who can.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

We received a lovely letter this week from Cottingham Food Bank:

***On behalf of the Cottingham Food Bank volunteers, I am writing to thank you for the very generous donations collected by your school just before Christmas. We were overwhelmed by the amount of bags, boxes and the variety of items.***

***Please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone involved.***

***I can assure you that those who receive the food bag are extremely grateful and it is a privilege to be able to give this help and support, especially during this difficult year.***

Thank you to everyone who took part or donated, A special mention goes to our sixth form students and Miss Jenkins for leading on this worthy cause.

Finally, please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Loz Wilson  
Headteacher

