



17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### COVID-19 Update – Partial Closure

You will be aware that yesterday the government significantly altered their advice to the nation in addressing the threat of the COVID-19 virus. This advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

As a result, staff absence has increased significantly and will remain at a very high level for the foreseeable future.

As Headteacher, I have to balance my high ambition for the school to remain open with the numbers of staff available to effectively supervise, safeguard and teach our students. I have reluctantly had to make the decision that, due to staff absence, we will have to partially close the school to some students. This will be effective from Wednesday 18 March and will run until the end of term. If the situation changes we will of course alert you.

- Year 10, 11 & 13 will continue in school full time due to impending external examinations.
- Year 7-9 and 12 will operate a "one day in, one day out" approach. This means that students never go more than one school day out of school.

Wed 18 March	School closed to yr 9 & yr 12
Thurs 19 March	School closed to yr 7 & yr 8
Fri 20 March	School closed to yr 9 & yr 12
Mon 23 March	School closed to yr 7 & yr 8
Tues 24 March	School closed to yr 9 & yr 12
Wed 25 March	School closed to yr7 & yr 8
Thurs 26 March	School closed to yr 9 & yr 12
Fri 27 March	School closed to yr7 & yr 8
Mon 30 March	School closed to yr 9 & yr 12
Tues 31 March	School closed to yr7 & yr 8
Wed 1 April	School closed to yr 9 & yr 12
Thurs 2 April	School closed to yr7 & yr 8
Fri 3 April	School closed to yr 9 & yr 12

For students out of school, work will be provided via Google Classroom to complete at home. Students will follow their normal timetabled lessons for the days they are in school.

Closing the school to any student is among the hardest decisions I have to make as a Headteacher. Please be assured that the decision has been taken following significant discussion and review and was not taken lightly. I understand that this may cause inconvenience and have a detrimental impact on family life and I offer my sincere apology for this. However, we just cannot operate the school safely with the numbers of staff now absent.

In addition to the above we are experiencing a number of absences in the canteen, where possible please could your child bring a packed lunch.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Gibson  
Headteacher