

EBE/srg

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to start this letter by thanking you again for all your kindness, compassion and support shown so far with the current crisis we face. Further to my communication yesterday, the situation is fast evolving and we face even greater challenges with decreased staffing levels.

It is, with regret, I share with you that our staffing levels now mean it is increasingly challenging to run business as usual. Our staff have rightly followed government guidance regarding their own health conditions and that of their families. For this reason, we will be having a **partial closure on Thursday, 19th March and Friday, 20th March.**

The school will be **OPEN FOR YEARS 7, 10 AND 11.**

The school will be **CLOSED FOR YEARS 8 AND 9.**

We do appreciate the difficulty this places families in and we don't take these decisions lightly. However, we need to ensure we can run a safe site and provide an education for your children effectively. We will reflect daily on our staffing levels to determine the future plans ahead.

These are unprecedented times and I do not underestimate the anxiety this must be causing many of you, particularly those of you with children who are facing public examinations this year and families where there are underlying health concerns. We will continue to keep in touch with the exam boards to seek further guidance. This week we have prioritised the completion of coursework for our Year 11 students. They have responded with such resilience and determination and I thank them all for this.

Years 8 and 9 can access guidance for their school work through our website. We have also produced work packs for all years which can be accessed in hard copy via our reception. We do only have a limited number of work packs, so please only access these if you do not have the internet at home. These packs are not child specific and will be available to collect from 2pm today. If you are unable to pick one up, please do contact us and we can look into ways to get this work to your child. It is vitally important that children don't fall behind in their learning. They do need to be keeping up with their studies, at the very least, as a distraction from this current crisis. If the school has to remain partially closed longer than anticipated, I will follow up with more guidance on working from home.

Please do keep communication channels open with us. If you have any concerns with the information above, don't hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes as always,

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Headteacher

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