

17th March 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

You will be aware that yesterday the government announced significant new measures to tackle the ongoing public health emergency.

Although at this point, schools are being directed to remain open. The new measures announced by the Government have resulted in significant staff absences. This affects our capacity to run normal timetables. With significantly reduced staffing, we have reached the point, of being unable to reasonably and safely run a full school. We are therefore operating a partial closure of the school.

For the remainder of this week, (Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th & Friday 20th) only students in Years 11 & 13 are required to attend school. Year 11 will continue with their trial exams and revision lessons and Year 13 will be following a bespoke timetable to include all their exam subjects.

We have already suspended all non-essential activities including assemblies, visiting speakers, sporting fixtures and Year 10 parents evening. Staff have already been providing Years 11 & 13 with additional work to support them with their ongoing revision.

We will be reviewing this decision in light of further government advice on a daily basis. Please be assured that we will put in place measures, to mitigate as far as we are able any impact on learning should this situation continue.

As soon as we are in a position to clarify arrangements for next week we will update you. This is a rapidly changing situation and reliable sources of information can be found at

<http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents, carers and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Peters
Headteacher

