

2nd December 2020

Dear families,

**Partial School Closure: School Closed to Learners in Years 7 and 10
Monday 7th December to Tuesday 8th December 2020**

During the last few days we have been experiencing some significant challenges within the school. There have been a number of positive Covid-19 test results among both the learner and staff populations and in each case we are required to ensure that all close contacts are traced and told to self isolate. We have managed our response to these as swiftly as possible and it became clear that the school was not able to operate in a safe manner with the level of staffing available to us. In light of this we took the decision to provide clarity for the remainder of this week by asking years eight, nine and ten to remain at home until 4 December 2020.

Today we have reviewed both the staff availability forecast for the coming week and the numbers of learners in each year group who are self isolating. The school is not in a position to accommodate all year groups on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Taking into account the numbers of learners who have been asked to self isolate in each year group, we have determined that years seven and ten will need to learn from home on Monday and Tuesday next week. The school remains open to years eight, nine and eleven. Learners who have been instructed to self isolate should continue to do so until their return date.

Learners in seven and ten who have been identified, and contacted separately, as being eligible for provision during the partial closures over the past week (those with a Social Worker or EHCP, those who have limited ICT access at home or the children of critical workers) will still have provision in school this week. On arrival at school these learners should go to the following base:

- Year 7 A half (Tutor groups A, S, P) - M8
 B half (Tutor groups I, R, E) - M6
- Year 10 S8

If your child is eligible to attend school and has headphones, can I please request that they bring these into school tomorrow as it will help them to access the remote learning.

Learners in years 7 and 10 will be sent an email to their school email account providing the details of their lessons for the coming day. There will also be a link provided for their tutor time which they are expected to attend at 8:30 via Microsoft Teams. Attendance to tutor time is monitored and if your child does not log on we will text you to let you know. It would be good practice for those learners who have not used Microsoft Teams before to log on ahead of their first tutor time just to check that they are familiar with its use. Guidance is available on the Home Learning section of the school's website.

Cont.

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We appreciate that it can be challenging to provide care for younger children which is why we are contacting year seven parents and carers well in advance of their remote learning. Taking this action now allows for effective remote learning to be delivered to those learners who will be at home and provides certainty for the coming days. Advance planning also allows our staff to ensure that the live lessons are as effective as possible for your child's development. We are in contact with Public Health England and representatives from the Local Authority in order to keep them fully apprised of the situation.

This is not a decision that we wanted to take but I hope that the reasons for instigating remote learning are clear and allows you to more effectively plan for the coming days. We thank you for your understanding during this challenging time. We are working to return the school to full opening as soon as possible and we will be in touch with further details in the coming days.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Major', written in a cursive style.

Mr C Major
Deputy Headteacher