

24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**We are making the decision to move students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 to remote learning for the remaining three days before half term.** This means that school will be closed to students, except for Year 11. Their assessments will continue as usual due to the way in which the exams can be socially distanced. Having not had to make a decision like this since the start of the pandemic, a recent increase in asymptomatic, positive cases has caused us to take this difficult decision. This weekend has seen a number of cases reported, each causing us to inform families of contacts of the need to isolate for 10 days. We have spoken to the Public Health team at Lancashire, and they support our decision in order to break the transmission locally.

Therefore, we will move to remote learning, via TEAMS for Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th May. We will follow the usual school timetable, including lesson times, breaks and lunches. Lessons will be live (technology allowing) for some part of the lesson time, but the teacher will set and manage the learning as best suits the students. We will expect lessons to last around 50 minutes to allow students to pack away and get set for their next lesson. Whilst we know that face to face teaching is the best form, we will use our experience of the last lockdown to minimise disruption to learning. If there are any issues logging on then please contact [andi@lsahigh.org](mailto:andi@lsahigh.org) or call 07795602410.

Whilst we are not currently seeing the health effects of COVID in school and are trying to run as normal an experience as possible, the track and trace obligations make it impossible to operate normally. It is hoped that breaking the transmission now will reduce the number of families impacted by the need to follow government advice and isolate for the entire half term break. It is clearly a challenge to manage the health and safety of staff and students, especially during a time when we see the rest of the country easing restrictions and "opening up" and I understand the anxiety and anger a decision like this can cause, but would thank parents for their incredible support over the last week, testing, isolating and supporting local approach to managing Covid.

As we send children home today, we will be offering Covid Test kits. Please can we ask parents who are participating to test their children on Saturday 5th and/or Sunday 6th June in preparation for our full return.

We will establish an onsite critical worker provision for Wednesday and Thursday and we will contact parents directly.

Your sincerely,



Mr Baker

Headteacher