



21 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It is with huge regret, that I am informing you I have decided to stop 'in school teaching' for both Year 12 and 13 for this half term, with immediate effect. We have had a third confirmed Covid-19 case in the Sixth Form. Resultantly, I have taken the decision, that in order to preserve as many students' half terms and indeed preserve face to face teaching after half term, for as many as possible, an early close to this half term is the best action I can take. Lessons will continue on Thursday and Friday, this week, via TEAMS and other work will be made available by teachers. Students should email their teachers for details, as they have done previously. For clarity, Post 16 teaching continues until Friday, 23 October, remotely.

I have taken advice from the DfE and the West Yorkshire Health Protection Team during the week and they have assured me that, as a school, we have acted correctly and appropriately. They stated to me that despite the number of cases, we have not been affected adversely, and numbers are 'small'. They shared with me that we, 'have done exceedingly well' to stay open given the location of the school and the total number of students attending the school. Their tracking indicates, that infections in Sixth Form have been 'community based' not 'in school' transmissions. Their advice has been to keep the school open for year group bubbles as long as possible. This is what I have done. I am acutely conscious of the impact of closing the Sixth Form early, particularly on those sitting examinations next summer. This is not a decision I have taken lightly. But, we will do everything within our power to ensure students are as best prepared as possible for next July.

I must share with you the fact that matters may get worse before they get better. Meaning, as we approach the winter months, it is highly likely that more disruption will come. Therefore, I would strongly encourage you to find some time to look at our 'Remote Learning' offer, on our website, and read through the parent and student support guides. This will help you support your child during this most challenging of periods.

Unfortunately, this is the new normal. I will do my very best to keep the school open, but I will always put the health and safety of your children first. So, if I have to close bubbles, year groups or the school, I will. I am sorry for the inconvenience this may cause you, but these are unprecedented times and we are all having to adjust to how we now live, work and learn every day. For now, the remainder of school will remain open until Friday as 'normal'.

Yours faithfully



Matthew West  
Principal