



6 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we are all now fully aware, we are sadly in our second national lockdown. Fortunately, this time, schools remain open.

One unexpected consequence of the lockdown is the guidance (released on 4 November) relating to school staff who are categorised as, 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable' (CEV). Essentially, these are staff who are at very high risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Such staff have been advised to stay at home and cannot attend school to work, from now.

This leaves us with a potential issue regarding staffing the various functions of the school in the coming days and weeks. I therefore, felt the need to share my thinking with you and, as a precaution, inform you of the steps I will take if staffing issues present themselves during lockdown. Specifically, when I combine the number of CEV staff with those staff who are either: absent and ill with Covid-19; absent and ill for other reasons; absent due to self-isolation or absent due to an instruction from NHS Track and Trace, I could struggle to maintain a normal school. These combined absences mean that we could well encounter: a shortage of kitchen staff to feed children; a shortage of site staff to maintain the safety and operating of the school site; a shortage in support staff and a shortage in teaching staff.

To be clear, presently, I can maintain the school in its current format, but this is becoming increasingly more difficult. This means that in the coming days or weeks, I may have to contact you again, informing you that I will have to partially close the school to some year groups. This will mean that we will expect some year groups to access their learning remotely. I will not take this decision lightly. I maintained my position throughout the first lockdown, in my communications to you, that your children should have been in school then. I feel exactly the same now. If I have to partially close parts of the school, this will not necessarily be due to an outbreak of Covid-19 infections in school (we have some of the lowest infection rates in the region, as confirmed by PHE). Instead, I will more likely close parts of the school to some year groups due to health and safety reasons. I can only apologise for this.

My team and I have worked tirelessly since September, and indeed before, to keep the school open. We have successfully kept infection rates down in school and in all the cases we have had they have been 'community based', not school based. So, I am extremely disappointed that through no fault of our own we may have to switch some year groups to learning at home for periods of time.

Details of our approach will be shared with you at the time I decide we have to move to a mixture of class-based learning and learning from home. This will be shared in a document called:

**'COVID-19 national restrictions – information to parents/carers'.**

Before that happens, I will take this opportunity to briefly outline our approach:





In the event that we move to a rota-based approach, students would spend two weeks in school and two weeks learning remotely. For the first two weeks, Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 would be in school, whilst Years 7-9 (and ELECT) would learn remotely, and this would then swap for the subsequent fortnight. The school would remain open throughout to vulnerable students and the children of key workers for whom no other alternatives were available, with these students completing their remote learning work in school.

To facilitate a rota approach, students would be issued with new timetables which may include changes to their current teachers, rooms or sets, but all students would continue to receive a broad and balanced curriculum delivered by qualified subject teachers. We would continue to operate a full range of safety control measures within school to ensure the safety of students and staff, including a requirement for students to wear face coverings when not in a classroom and a return to students being based in zoned areas of the school when not accessing specialist rooms.

When in school, students would arrive at the time they have been arriving at prior to half term and the structure of the school day will remain unchanged. However, Y7 and Year 9 would be directed to use different entrances into school, with Year 7 using the doors near Humanities, and Year 9 using the atrium doors. Year 7 would be zoned within the MFL/Humanities area of school, whilst Year 9 would be zoned within the Maths area of school. All other year groups would continue to access the building using their current entrances and would be based in the areas of school previously zoned to them. However, all students will move from these zones to access specialist teaching spaces in Design, Science, ICT, Performance and PE.

To reduce the risk of transmission between year groups, we would also perform a deep clean on a Friday afternoon at the end of each fortnight. This would necessitate students in school being dismissed at lunchtime on the second Friday of their rotation, for which parents/carers would need to make provision.

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 should continue to prepare for their PPE examinations at the end of November. Should we move to a rota, and disruption be sustained to the planned PPE weeks, Year 11 and Year 13 will be set remote learning which supports with revision and continue to prepare for these examinations. These exams will be taken at the next available opportunity when they are in school, and parents/carers would be updated as to the dates of these examinations, using the MyEd application.

I am sure many of you will have questions about our intentions, but I would politely ask that you pause on those questions until such time as I contact you to definitively confirm we are moving to a 'rota-based approach'. Once we reach that point, please carefully read the accompanying documentation and then get in touch with your questions.

To repeat, this letter is a precaution step, to make sure you are well prepared for what might happen in the coming days. I can assure you that I will delay this as long as possible, so to preserve what we have currently in place at school. If you wish to get a sense of how our remote learning has evolved since the first lockdown, I would recommend you take some time to visit our website at: <https://tmhs.co.uk/school-life/remote-learning/> Here you will find some useful student and parental guides to help navigate the range of learning made available for your child.



Finally, I will inform you that despite the increases in Covid-19 infections in Leeds recently and indeed nationally, we are seeing a decrease at Temple Moor. I very much hope this decrease continues and we can get through to the Christmas break as a whole school.

As always, I am grateful for your continued support of the school during these difficult times.

Yours faithfully



Matthew West  
Principal