



1 December 2020

Dear Y9 Parent or Carer

I writing to inform you I have made the decision to stand down Y9 students from school until Wednesday, 9 December. For now, they will need to work remotely from home. For clarity, I am not informing you that they must self-isolate due to COVID-19. Work will be set via Class Charts, all the details on how to access this is on our website.

Many of you will recall me writing to you on 6 November, explaining the issues that may come due to absent staff. Disappointingly, we have now reached that point. Consequently, to ease the increased pressure on the school, I have asked that Y9 work from home, for now. This work will have to be generic cover work, as opposed to the bespoke remote learning offer we would usually provide. This is because it is unreasonable for me to expect my available teachers to provide work both in school for up to five periods, whilst covering colleagues, and then provide bespoke work for home.

Today, I have 11 teachers absent from school, plus other non-teaching staff. Two of these staff have confirmed COVID-19 infections that were contracted in the community and not in school. The other staff have been asked to self-isolate by NHS 'Track and Trace'. Resultantly, this leaves me with an issue of a lack of capacity. Specifically, staffing classrooms for lessons and maintaining duty points around school, particularly at break and lunchtime and before and after school.

We are working hard to keep the school open, and I will update you quickly once decisions have been made to get us through the remainder of this term. Other information will be issued by other senior leaders as the day and week progresses, so please look out for those messages.

Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience this will cause you at home. You will appreciate my decisions are always made with ensuring the health and safety of all students and staff at the school as the absolute priority.

I thank you again for your continued support

Yours faithfully



Matthew West
Principal