



18 March 2020

Dear Parents

Re: COVID-19 update– partial school closure

I am writing to inform you of some further changes as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak. Although there are very few confirmed cases in North Somerset, the advice issued by Public Health England for vulnerable people is having a significant impact on staffing levels in our school. In common with many other schools, we have had to take action that involves partial closure, whilst also considering the least impact on key exam groups.

In order to preserve the safety of staff and students on site, the school will be **closed to specific year groups on Thursday 19th March and Friday 20th March.**

- On **Thursday 19th March** we will be open to all students, **except for students in year 9.** Parents will be aware that students in year 9 were scheduled to be immunised on Thursday 19th March. We have been in touch with the immunisation team and can reassure parents that this will be rescheduled after the Easter break.
- On **Friday 20th March** we will be open to all students, **except for students in years 8 and 9.**

We will also remain open for students in years 8 and 9 whose parents/carers work in front line NHS or other Emergency Services staff, who are not in household isolation. In this instance students should report to 161 at the start of the day as normal classes will not be operational.

During closure days for years 8 and 9, students who are **eligible for Free School Meals**, can continue to come on site for a hot meal should they wish to do so. Students should come to reception between 12:50pm and 1:00pm where they will be registered. Students in years 8 and 9, on their specific closure days will then leave through reception at 1:40pm.

We are continuing to follow the advice of Public Health England and will not fully close unless directed to do so OR if staff absence levels mean that the safety of students is compromised.

Teachers of years 9 and 8 will be using Show My Homework to set cover work on the days that students are not in school. Any students who have indicated that internet access will be an issue will be provided with paper based resources before they leave . Staff will endeavour to respond to queries and mark work, but please remember teachers and support staff may also be unwell or self-isolating.

Thank you for your continued support.

I understand that this partial closure may cause disruption to the families of the year groups concerned. However, I hope you appreciate that this is impacting the school in a major way and we are doing all we can to stay open for as many students for as long as possible. As the situation changes, I will continue to write with further updates.

Yours faithfully

Dee Elliott
Head teacher