



17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Families,

With things changing so quickly with Coronavirus, I wanted to send you the updated health advice and let you know what we are doing at our school to manage the situation. The Government is now providing daily updates on the steps it is taking to help fight Coronavirus and has said that schools are to remain open. So far, we do not have any confirmed cases of coronavirus in our school.

We want to keep the school open for all students for as long as possible whilst government guidance still allows this, we are working hard as a school community to maintain as much stability for the students' education as possible. However, there are a number of logistical and staffing issues which now make this challenging on a whole school basis. **We have, therefore, decided to close the school for Year 8 and Year 9 from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice.** The reason for choosing these year groups is to ensure we can continue to teach our exam classes and to support families with younger children to remain in work. All other year groups should still attend school as normal. **Years 7, 10, 11 and 6<sup>th</sup> form will continue to have lessons during this time.**

As a further support measure, **students in Years 8 and 9 may continue to attend school for lunch each day.** We recognise it's tricky for families to get weekly shopping at present and we therefore are happy for Year 8 and Year 9 students to arrive at school in full uniform at 12:30 to use the school canteen, as usual, and they will be dismissed after lunch. Students will be able to pay using their regular accounts and those on free school meals can have their allocated free lunch.

We know that you will understand that it is not possible for us to confirm at this stage the exact period of closure for this year group. However, please rest assured that we will open again to these students as soon as is practicable. We will ensure that students have work to complete during this period; they will receive packs of work today to complete, and further study is provided through the Show My Homework app. Please do ensure that your child completes the work set.

The health guidance updated yesterday by the Government now states that:

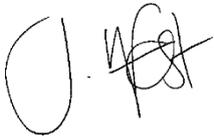
- The symptoms of the virus are a high temperature and/or a new continuous cough. Everyone living with someone showing symptoms of the virus must self-isolate for 14 days
- People should avoid unnecessary social contact including not visiting restaurants, pubs and theatres
- From the weekend, pregnant women, those over 70 and those with underlying health issues should limit social contact for 12 weeks
- All unnecessary travel should be limited, and people should work from home where they can.

Information on the stay at home advice from Government is here:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance)

NHS guidance is here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We will continue to update you on any developments via email, the school app and text and with regular updates on the school website. Thank you for your understanding of the school's decisions in these exceptional circumstances.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. West', with a large, stylized initial 'J' on the left and a more complex signature on the right.

Ms J West  
Principal