



Dear Parents,

You will have undoubtedly heard by now that our area (specifically the seven North East Council areas of Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside, North Tyneside, Sunderland, County Durham and Northumberland) is subject to new restrictions as of midnight tonight, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

The announcement is available on Newcastle City Council's website [here](#), with a helpful FAQ [here](#). I will leave parents to read the full statements and digest the detail, which primarily relate to a restriction on social gatherings.

**I wanted to give reassurance that, at this moment, we understand this local lockdown will *not* affect the functioning of the school, we will continue to operate all of the practices we have in place. For clarity, this includes Saturday sports at RGS.**

Understandably, some students, parents and staff are likely to be concerned by the heightened local safety measures. I want to reassure our community that the safety measures we have in place in school are compliant with guidelines set out to keep us safe, so we need to remain calm and continue to observe all of the practices set out in the Student Charter, as well as the Government's guidelines for schools. Collectively, these are all in place to minimise risk to all members of our community as much as possible, and each individual's continued vigilance is much appreciated.

While the new lockdown arrangements do not affect the operation of the school they may, of course, impact families' personal circumstances, for example travel, work, or childcare. I encourage families to review how the rules might affect their own personal arrangements, and please contact the school at [communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk) if any of the changes are likely to impact your child's participation in school life or have an effect on any of the arrangements we already have in place.

Sending all members of our community the very best of wishes.

**Geoffrey Stanford**

Headmaster

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