



15th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Friday 16th July Partial Closure

Over the past few days, we have seen a growth in the number of students who have tested positive for Covid-19 on their Lateral Flow Tests. Many of these cases have been followed by confirmatory positive PCR results. This week the situation has been most significant in Year 9, but we are carrying out contact tracing in every year group.

We also now have a higher number than usual of staff self-isolating. This is because they have either tested positive, have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace or are having to care for children who have 'school bubbles' that have been sent home to self-isolate.

As a result of these challenges, we do not have enough staff to safely open the school for all year groups tomorrow. We have reluctantly made the decision that **tomorrow, Friday 16th July, all students in the Year 9 bubble should remain at home and learn remotely. All other year groups should attend school as normal** and will participate in the PSHE Drop Down Day. The Duke of Edinburgh expeditions will also continue as planned; although students who are self-isolating should remain at home.

We will review the situation on Friday afternoon and over the weekend, when we will have a further update on pending PCR tests for some of our staff. Our hope is that Year 9 students who are not self-isolating will be able to return to school on Monday 19th July. Parents and carers in all year groups should keep a close eye on their emails over the weekend for updates about further possible partial closures.

For tomorrow, students in Year 9 will be emailed details of their remote learning via a Sway from Ms Morrison. This email will either come from Ms Morrison or Ms Gostling. This will link to the activities that they would have completed on their PSHE Drop Down Day. We know that our Year 9 students will be very disappointed and so we will seek to find an alternative date in the Autumn Term for Year 9 to take part in the on-site activities so that they can also benefit from this rich extracurricular experience.



Please can we request that all students continue to bring face coverings to wear in school until the end of the summer term. Students should also wear these on public transport and in shops to help limit the spread of Covid-19 in the wider community. Continued vigilant Lateral Flow Testing is also vital for all students.

We hugely regret this disruption to the end of the year, which has been brought about by the increased spread of the new Delta Covid-19 variant.

We hope that September 2021 offers the start of a more stable academic year. We remain indebted to the kindness and support of parents and carers who have helped us manage this complex situation over the past 18 months. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Learning Coordinator (YLC) if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Lowe