

# PARTIAL SCHOOL CLOSURE

## GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Applies: 19-20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### Why has the school closed for some year groups?

We do not have enough teachers in school to deliver a safe and appropriate education for all year groups. We have prioritised Year 11 and 13 (as they have examinations coming up) and Year 7 and 8 (to alleviate childcare problems for parents). For Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March we will be closed to Year 9, 10 and 12 students **except** those students whose parents are in frontline services who may continue to send their child/children to school.

We do not, as yet, know our position beyond this weekend.

### What does this mean for me as a parent?

**The school is closed to Year 9, 10 and 12 students. We are asking for your support in helping us provide some form of education for children whilst they are at home.**

Although the school buildings are off-limits to some students, we continue to consider ourselves as providing an education for these students. Students should also continue to consider themselves as 'at school' in the sense that they will need to study. It would be accurate to consider this period of school closure as '**working from home**' for students, although the hours and expectations are very different.

### Are students expected to complete work at home?

**YES.** We will continue to set work for students to complete at home.

Please do the following:

- **Set a routine for your child for their 'school day'. This may mean a regular 'start time' where they start the work that has been set. If possible, create a school space where work can be completed.**
- Teachers will set work for the lessons students would normally have had that day on Show My Homework (SMH).
- We will try to set work which is **manageable and achievable** for students. Each lesson's work may not take a whole hour to complete. We will try not to set work which requires students to make excessive use of the internet or a computer. We will not assume they have access to a printer or ask them to print out material.

**Please check each day that your child has completed the work set to a reasonable standard.** We understand that you may be at work and will need to agree your own routine for this.

Completing the work set is very important. Failure to do this will mean your child has fallen behind other students by the time school re-opens to these students.

### Will we ask students to submit work for marking?

**Not for most students.** However, we can do this via Show My Homework (SMH) if the teacher would like it to be submitted.

### What should I do if my child is sick and cannot complete work?

If your child reaches a level of sickness that would prevent them attending school, then please report this 'absence' in the usual way. When better, they should catch up with any work missed as best they can.

### Are other aspects of the school continuing to operate?

We continue to have a duty of care to our students. Therefore, staff will continue to respond to emails and speak on the phone as normal. Staff who are self-isolating but not unwell are working from home and will also be able to respond via email (although your enquiry may be directed to staff who are in school).

If there are pastoral or safeguarding matters, please pass these on in the usual way. **Safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to your child's Head of Year.**

### What happens next week?

**We do not yet know whether we will be open to all, some, or no students next week.**

### What do I need to know about school re-opening to Year 9, 10 and 12?

You will receive regular updates about the school closure. When we are able to re-open to these year groups there will be information about the arrangements for this.

### Advice on wellbeing

We all benefit from the routines of school and work. An extended school closure disrupts these routines and can negatively affect physical and mental health. We recommend:

- Setting a clear **daily routine**. This may mean completing school work in the morning, some physical exercise (perhaps going for a walk, if not self-isolating), regular meal times and some household chores in the afternoon.
- Adjusting this routine if you have more than one child affected so that **access to computer equipment** is agreed without arguments.
- Avoiding extended periods of time playing computer games, on Netflix/YouTube, on social media or watching TV.
- Regular bedtimes.

### What happens if my child claims free school meals?

Please let us know which supermarket you tend to shop with. We will arrange for vouchers to the value of the free school allowance each day to help you out with the additional food costs. These will be sent to you by post.

Thank you for your support and understanding during this difficult time. We are doing our best to provide education for students. Please forgive us any oversights.