

15 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Partial School Closure: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The health, safety and welfare of our students, staff, families and the community are at the forefront of the decisions we make as a school. In light of the current public health emergency, it is with regret that we have had to make the decision to carry out an enforced partial closure to Year 10. At this moment in time, exceptional levels of staff absence means that we cannot safely accommodate all students in the academy. **We have made the decision to close to Year 10 from Monday 18 October until Thursday 21 October, which is the start of half term as Friday 22 October is a calendared INSET day.** Should staffing levels improve, and it becomes safe to do so, we will alert you that we are reopening to Year 10 sooner.

The academy remains open as normal to all other year groups and Year 9 return to the academy following their partial closure this week.

Home Learning

We have previously communicated with you to explain what the process will be for setting work for students during the enforced closure. Therefore, whilst at home, Google Classroom is the means by which teachers will set work for their classes. In order for parents/carers to support their children at home, we have created a [Home Learning webpage](http://homelearning.outwood.com) (homelearning.outwood.com) which provides you with guidance on how to access Google Classroom with your child. If your child has any issues regarding accessing their lessons, please do not hesitate to contact the academy, either by phone or through the 'Contact us' page on the academy website.

The vast majority of lessons will be provided in Google Classrooms but because of staff absence, it is possible that some lessons will not be recorded. In this case, a lot of additional work is also available to all students via:

- Sparx Maths <https://sparx.co.uk/>
- Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/>
- BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://science.outwood.com/>
- <https://sites.google.com/outwood.com/maths/home>

All the lessons for the partial closure will be found in a Personalised Learning Google Document the Year 10 Tutor Google Classroom which all students have been invited to. Students will be able to access their learning via a hyperlink to a recorded task or resources on the Learning Summary.

Free School Meal Parcel

We have support available for families of students in receipt of free school meals in the form of a food parcel. Please let us know, by contacting the school via phone or the 'Contact us' page on the academy website, if you would like to collect one of these. Food parcels will be made available to those that request them from Tuesday 12 October for collection from the Academy reception from 12.00 onwards.

Key worker/Vulnerable Student Provision

If you are a classed as a key worker or your child meets the vulnerable children definition according to the government list (both identified in the link below) and you are unable to make alternative arrangements for your child, please send your child to school as normal and ask them to report to a member of staff at the gate:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Face coverings

The academy continues to communicate and act upon guidance provided from the local health protection team. We will continue to maintain the daily systems of control in place in the academy this term; additional hand sanitisation, forward facing seating in classrooms and separate year group break times. Please be reminded that the academy has a supply of face coverings available to students who would wish to wear them whilst in the academy. We have some students and staff members who have continued to wear them throughout this term. We appreciate your support in assisting with the safety measures for the entire academy community and can continue to provide students and families with home testing kits to promote twice weekly testing. Should your child require more tests and does not know where to access these please ask them to speak to their form tutor.

As I'm sure you will understand, the decision to close the academy to even one year group is something which I have not done lightly. Thank you for your understanding and support during this difficult time.

Yours faithfully



Mr W Pratt
Principal