

15 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Since last Thursday, the impact of COVID-19 has unfortunately been felt more acutely across our school community. Over the course of the weekend we have seen a significant number of staff become unavailable to attend school because they are either required to self-isolate (having been notified by the NHS App.), have become unwell or have received a notice requiring them to shield. Whilst not all of this absence is COVID-19 related, we have a duty of care to ensure that our school is safe to open. We are currently in a position where we do not enough of our staff available to operate safely and so as a result, on Monday 16 November, we will only be open to pupils in Year 11 (unless they have been notified to self-isolate). We will be working on our plans for the remainder of this week throughout tomorrow and we will be in touch again to communicate the plans as they are finalised.

This decision has not been arrived at without a great deal of consideration, but we have to ensure that we are safe to open and that we have enough of our staff to operate safely and appropriately. We have been in constant touch with the Local Authority and the local health protection teams throughout the weekend and we have seen an escalation in staff absence since late afternoon and throughout the early part of this evening. We will be setting work on Satchel (ShowMyHomework) for Monday whilst we consider how to proceed with remote learning for those year groups who are required to remain at home.

I realise that the late notice provides a short period of time to make alternative arrangements, but we have constantly been working on contingencies which have fallen through as more staff absence has come in.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding and we will communicate plans as soon as possible tomorrow for the remainder of the week.

Yours sincerely



K Turmeau
Headteacher