

18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Important Update - closure to Year 8 students

Thank you all again for your understanding and continued support for staff and students during this uncertain time.

Further to my letter dated 16th March 2020, I regret to inform you that due to significant staff shortages, we will be unable to open the College to all students on Thursday. After careful consideration, we recognise that the year group most affected will be Year 8 and therefore the College will be closed to **Year 8 only** on Thursday 19th March.

Government advice is to keep schools open wherever possible, and we continue to endeavour to do so. You will be pleased to note that we are dedicating our Professional Development day on Wednesday to supporting our community. Staff will put together a comprehensive package of distance learning materials and therefore all students will have access to these resources, together with guidance for parents and students. Our main online learning platform is Canvas and details are available on our website.

If there are Year 8 students whose parents are front line staff within the NHS and will be unable to go to work because of this decision, please let us know, as we will still be able to cater for a small number of these students at school. Please note that we are unable to give any health advice and ask you to continue to keep up to date with the national guidance.

The College remains open for all other year groups for now and students will be expected to attend school if well enough to do so. Please ensure that your child attends with all their equipment and in particular with a fully equipped pencil case, in order to avoid sharing equipment.

As this situation is changing daily, **we request that all parents check MCAS and the school website daily, after 7:00 p.m.** where updates will be provided. Should staffing capacity fall below that considered to be safe for other year groups, it could mean that further closures are necessary.

We fully appreciate that these are unsettling times for everybody, and the College continues to work hard in order to ensure the highest levels of education, hygiene and pastoral care to all our community. We are extremely impressed by the mature way that our College community is dealing with this situation. We are grateful for your continued support as we navigate our way through these difficult times.

Please find up to date and on-going advice from the Government by following the links below:

When to stay at home:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Advice on social distancing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

Advice on support for businesses:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Manderson
Headteacher