

17 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As the Government continues to raise the response level to COVID-19, we need to begin to implement our contingency plans to support the Government's current 'delay' phase.

The school is linked to a large network of people and we must act on advice issued by the Department for Education and Public Health England. Within this network, we are seeing ever increasing numbers of people who are required to self-isolate for 7-14 days, having been in contact with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19, and we are concerned about the welfare of our students due to staffing levels being reduced. As a consequence, we have taken the difficult decision to close the school to all students in Years 7 and 8 from tomorrow, Wednesday 18 March 2020, for the foreseeable future. This will not adversely impact on individual student attendance figures as the Department for Education have confirmed that where students are asked to stay at home, this will be recorded in order to report absence levels only.

Our contingency plans include continuing to provide as much support as possible to our key cohorts who are currently preparing for external examinations and clearly, all of our students are entitled to receive some form of education whilst they have been asked to remain at home. Our plans to provide this are being put together as I write and will be sent via email on Friday 20 March. Whilst this letter with further instructions is being prepared, there are a number of examinations for KS3 students (English, Maths and Science) when we return and so a starting point for working at home would be to look at exercise books and access the number of websites we often use to support revision for these examinations. These include Seneca and Corbett Maths for example, and before this week is over, you will receive more guidance for all subjects.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and should we receive any new advice from the Department for Education, Public Health England or Rotherham Local Authority, we will inform you as soon as possible.

The most up to date advice to the public can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-for-households-with-possible-covid-19-infection>

We hope you understand that the welfare of both our students and staff has to be our first priority and by taking early action, we will be able to return to 'normal service' as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



G Di'lasio
Headteacher