



Tuesday 17th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been our aim to ensure that we stay open for as long as possible for as many children as possible with a clear priority on ensuring we provide effectively for examination classes. Unfortunately, in order to ensure we meet this aim we are going to have to make a difficult decision.

Due to increasing reporting from Track and Trace we are now seeing large numbers of our staff having to self-isolate. **It is critical to note that this does not mean positive tests, of which we have had very few, but instead possible contacts.** The impact of this on staffing has been phenomenal and so we are not in a position whereby we are able to operate our current provision safely and will have to move to a 'partial-shutdown' for a short period. This will mean that as of Wednesday 18th November 2020, we will be **closed for Year 9 students.** We will remain open for **all other year groups.** We believe that we will be able to reopen for year 9 from **Monday 23rd November.**

My child is in Year 9, what school work will they complete?

All work will be set via Teams for each of the lessons that your child has. The work will be set during the time when your child would normally have their lesson. For example, if your child normally has history at 10:15am on a Thursday, then they would have history work to complete during that time.

Your child can access Teams via the method shown here:

https://www.novaeducationtrust.net/files/remote/NET_Logging-into-Teams_GUIDE.pdf

My child is in Year 9, but during the last lockdown attended the key worker provision, is this available now?

From Thursday 19th November, we will operate a 'key worker provision' for any students in Year 9 where parents work in Key Worker provisions and accessed this service during lockdown last academic year. Please be aware that this provision is limited. The 'Key worker Provision' will run from 09:00am until 2pm.

To book a slot on the 'Key worker provision' please contact Reception by 12pm on Wednesday 18th November 2020.

Does my child need to self-isolate?

At present they do not need to self-isolate, unless you have received an additional letter to indicate that your child does need to self-isolate.

When will the school be open again to all students?

We hope to be open as normal from Monday 23rd November 2020 for all students. If we are not in the position to reopen due to staffing levels, I will be sure to let you know as soon as possible.

What shall I do if my child presents Covid-19 symptoms?

Please notify school as soon as you can.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely



Damian Belshaw
Head of School