

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

You will have seen today's announcements regarding school closures. I will write to you again tomorrow about our planning for next week and beyond. However, this letter is about arrangements for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Our levels of staff absence have now reached critical levels. For transparency, today we had 16 staff off work because they were self-isolating. I am proud that we have been able to run a 'normal' service to you up to this point, but further absences reported to me tonight mean this is no longer the case.

### **Year 11**

Tomorrow (Thursday), and on Friday morning, year 11 students should stay at home. Today's announcement about GCSEs being cancelled will be incredibly unsettling for our students, your children. The reality is that I have no further information than you as to what happens next. Hopefully by Friday, we will have something to tell them. Therefore, I would like to invite all year 11 students to arrive at school at 2.15pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, in full school uniform, in order to attend a special assembly. They should enter via the main reception, not any other school entrance.

### **Years 7-10**

Students should attend as normal on Thursday, and also on Friday morning. However, these students will be dismissed from school after lunch at 2.00pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>. Before they leave school on Friday, we will talk to them about how to access work from home from Monday onwards.

If your child is due to be in school, be aware that we will try to run all classes as normally as possible, but it may be necessary to put some classes together. Please remember that no child should be in school if **anybody** in the household has developed a new, continuous cough, or a temperature.

My staff, many of whom are parents and carers in their own right, and share all the same anxieties as you, have done a fantastic job this week. I am forever indebted to them for their dedication.

Thank you for your support and understanding,



Jonathan Mellor  
Headteacher