



9th November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Yesterday we wrote to all Year 9 parents to sadly inform them that we would not be able to allow our Year 9 students on site due to significant staff shortages. The details can be found in the letter below:

[Yr 9 Closure Letter](#)

We had over 18 teaching staff and support staff not available to work for a mixture of:

- Contact with a positive case in school
- Alerted via track and trace
- Family members with a positive case - self isolating as a result
- Children of staff needing to isolate - bubble closures in their schools
- Staff displaying symptoms and awaiting a test
- Other sickness / illness

With this many staff absent, and some for at least two weeks, it's extremely difficult to predict future staffing levels. My main priority has to be the safe running of the campus, and it was for this reason that we were forced to make the difficult decision to send a year group home.

If staffing remains as it is, we would need to rotate to the closure of another year group, which would be Year 8, so as to limit the impact of these closures on any one year group. If they were to deteriorate further, we may need to look at the closure of two year groups, but this would of course be communicated to you and always be a last resort. Should staffing improve markedly, we would of course welcome all students back on site and resume our normal provision.

This is a very challenging time for all schools and we are not alone in facing these staffing difficulties. We are doing our best to meet the ever changing demands of this pandemic, but I must reiterate that we are in exceptional times, and as such we cannot always deliver in the same way as would be typical, and sometimes as expected. Even with a year group not in school, staff are having to cover other lessons / duties so that we can still run the timetable for the students we do have. This, in turn, has impacted on what they can do during the school day.

Continued...



We do have some agency staff on site this week to alleviate the pressure, but this is proving incredibly hard as demand soars across the county. It is also something we cannot afford. Schools across the nation have been given no additional funding to meet the costs of COVID, and as a campus we have already spent over £70,000 on COVID related costs.

Once again, please can I thank you all for your ongoing support at this most challenging time, and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Teece".

Will Teece
Headteacher