



14th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Following confirmation of a further positive COVID-19 test result affecting our Year 8 community, we have taken the decision to transition to remote learning for all students in Year 8 from **Monday 16th November**. This adjustment will last for one week in the first instance.

Over the last 7 school days we have had to ask a significant number of students in the Year group to self-isolate as a precautionary measure. Whilst there is no suggestion of any link between the reported cases that have led to these requests, the cumulative impact on the number of children working from home at this time is a concern.

In addition to student absence we are experiencing increasing pressures on staff availability. There are several reasons which include:

- Staff self-isolating as a result of contact with a positive case / testing positive themselves
- Staff notified to self-isolate by the NHS Track and Trace App
- Staff self-isolating because a member of their family is either positive or has symptoms
- Staff working from home because they are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)
- Staff absent from work in order to care for children who are self-isolating

Given the combined effect of the current circumstances for this cohort, it has become clear that our best option in securing a consistent learning experience is through our remote platform. This will allow more staff to be available for their classes as colleagues can deliver remotely from home where required, as well as ensure all students can access teacher led learning.

All lessons will be taught live to students through Microsoft Teams. Live lessons will take place from period 2 (10:30am) on Monday 16th November. This will allow the necessary invitation to lessons to be distributed to student calendars at the start of the day and for students to refamiliarise themselves with our expectations for remote learning (attached) and to get prepared. Independent learning is available for period 1 and can be accessed in the usual way from the 'Files' section of the relevant subject.

Students have received training in the use of Microsoft Teams but can follow the instructions attached if they have any challenges in getting started. If there is any reason why your child might struggle to access our remote offer, then please get in touch with the Year office at the earliest opportunity so that we can support you in addressing specific barriers.

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Mr G Fitzpatrick

Head of School
Mr D Perry



For those parents who work in critical sectors (list [here](#)), we will enable students to attend school under supervision to do the same work as their peers. They will not attend normal lessons. This will be available to address acute needs and targeted at families where both parents (or the sole parent) are critical workers. If you feel that your child is eligible for this provision or your child is vulnerable and needs to remain in school, please contact the Year office with details as soon as possible so that we can make required arrangements.

I would like to thank you in anticipation for your continued support as we work to respond to the unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves. Our children remain at the centre of all we are and do.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Perry', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Perry - **Head of School**