



March 18th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Partial Closure: Closed to Years 8 & 10 Thursday March 19th

As a result of staff absence, school will be partially closed on Thursday March 19th, with years 8, 10 and 12 asked to study from home.

We will be reviewing arrangements daily. As things stand, we will continue to prioritise lessons for exam groups in Yrs 11 and 13. We are awaiting clarification on arrangements for Friday dependent on a Government decision. In the event there is not a blanket closure of schools, we will definitely close to at least 2 year groups on Friday and this will be Years 8 and 10. It is possible additional year groups will also be asked to study from home if we are unable to staff lessons due to further staff absence.

Free School Meals

I appreciate that a number of students who will be working at home are entitled to a free school meal. Working with Chartwells, our catering provider, we will be able to offer a free meal pick-up service between 12.30 - 1p.m. tomorrow for students in years 8, 10 and 12 who are entitled.

Work for Students

As part of our contingency planning we are preparing online resources and workpacks for students to complete at home. Details will be issued to students via their school email addresses and we will also be posting further details on the website. We are exploring options for distribution of work to students who cannot access the internet.

COVID-19 Information Update (as issued March 16th)

Please note we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 among our Colmers student or staff population at this time.

As of Monday 16th March, the Government has provided us with the following advice:

- If anyone in your household has either a continuous cough OR a high temperature, the whole household should self-isolate for 14 days, limiting your social contact.



- To stop non-essential travel and contact with others, avoiding all unnecessary social contact, all those people that can work at home should do so.
- By this weekend, anyone with a serious health condition should be protected from social contact for about 12 weeks.

The situation at Colmers

- We have had a number of staff and students self-isolate, either after calling 111 or due to a vulnerable family member self-isolating and the student not wanting to put that person at risk.
- We have an increase in staff absence as a result of government guidance on self-isolation and social distancing.
- If you have symptoms, please contact 111 for advice before coming to school.
- If you live with a vulnerable person who is self-isolating, please think carefully before coming to school as you may bring germs back into that area of self-isolation, putting that person at undue risk.
- If any family is in doubt about a student coming to school, they should visit the NHS website or call 111. The general advice is they should self isolate for 14 days if they have a new continuous cough OR a high temperature (37.8 degrees or above).

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging circumstances.

Best wishes,

Emma Leaman

Headteacher