



March 17th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Partial Closure: Closed to Year 9 Tuesday March 17th

In light of the changed advice from Government yesterday afternoon, we have a number of staff who need to self-isolate from today. In order to maintain a safe school environment, I have taken the decision to partially close the school by closing to Year 9 students today. I am sorry for the short notice but hope you will understand the need to respond swiftly to a fast-changing picture.

We will be reviewing arrangements over the course of today and will provide an update by 5p.m. on plans for the remainder of the week.

COVID-19 Information Update

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.
- From today, we have a number of staff self-isolating in line with government advice on social distancing for vulnerable people.
- It is not possible to know at this time if staff or students displaying symptoms are suffering with COVID-19.
- 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 for 14 days if they have a new continuous cough OR a high temperature (37.8 degrees of above).

Potential School Closure

We have been carefully observing events in other countries and listening to messages from the Government and Department for Education. It seems increasingly likely that at some point there will be an enforced closure of schools. We have therefore been planning for this eventuality. We are committed to providing work to our students if this happens so they do not fall behind and those taking exams get every opportunity to prepare effectively.

We already have our School Portal, GCSEPod and online programmes (e.g. MathsWatch, Tassomai) that we can utilise. We have been gathering information on students' access to the internet and/or IT equipment. Please do contact us if you are unable to access work online so we can provide workpacks accordingly.

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging circumstances.

Best wishes,

Emma Leaman

Headteacher