



In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower

Abbey Grange C of E Academy

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Co-CEO: Ms Catherine Garrett

Co-CEO: Mrs Helen Pratten

Principal: Mr Jon Norden

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

In the light of the latest government advice around self-isolation for anyone with symptoms linked to coronavirus and also to those who have underlying medical conditions, we are no longer in a position to staff a full timetable. We have therefore made the decision to begin a partial school closure with effect from **tomorrow** (Wednesday 18th March).

School will be closed to Years, 8, 9 and 12, whilst lessons will continue for students in Years 7, 10, 11 and 13.

This is not a decision that has been taken lightly, but is a direct response to our ongoing capacity to adequately teach and supervise our students.

Rationale:

- We want to protect the teaching of examination classes in Years 11 and 13
- We want to ensure that the youngest year group is in school to ease the pressure of childcare on parents
- In a fast changing situation, we want as much as possible to make planned and thought through decisions
- We want to minimise the numbers of visitors that we receive on a daily basis in school, including supply teachers

We will continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis, and will continue to follow all government and Public Health England advice.

As we said in the letter sent out last Friday, work will be set for students for whom school is closed via the MILK and Foldr apps. Where we know students do not have internet access, packs will be sent out on Wednesday. If you are a key worker in an essential service and your child is in Year 8 or 9, please contact the school to inform us if you are unable to make childcare arrangements.

In addition to this we have also taken the decision to cancel sporting fixtures. We will also cease to hold assemblies during the school day, and next week's planned PHSC Day has also been postponed. We are looking at school visits on a case by case basis, and will contact the relevant families as and when any decisions are made.

We would like to reiterate the message that children should stay at home if they are unwell (or someone that they live with) with a new, persistent cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Please be aware that if your child were to become unwell at school with these symptoms, we will contact you to make arrangements for them to be sent home.



We still do not have any confirmed cases of coronavirus, but we do have staff and students who are self-isolating because of illness.

Thank you in advance for your continued support as we navigate our way through these unprecedented challenges.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Norden', written in a cursive style.

Jon Norden
Principal