



In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower

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7th December 2020

Dear Year 9 Parent / Carer

Year 9 students to remain at home 8th December – 14th December

I am writing to inform you that regrettably I have taken the decision to close the school to Year 9 students for the rest of this week and next Monday (8th December – 14th December), in the first instance. This is due to two confirmed Covid cases in Year 9 today which have resulted in a large number of close contacts being identified amongst students, who have had to be sent home over the course of the day. Students should return on Tuesday 15th December, unless I contact you to extend the isolation period (this would only happen if more cases became evident). I can assure you that this has not been an easy decision to make, particularly given that Year 9 has been collapsed as a bubble back in October. However there two main reasons as to why I have made this decision:

- We have already had to send over 70 students in Year 9 home as close contacts of the positive cases and further cases are a possibility. Remaining at home will protect other Year 9 students, and their families, from the virus.
- Staffing shortages are also making it difficult to cover all lessons and duties.

Even though school is closed to your child's year group, if they develop any of the symptoms for Covid-19: high temperature, a cough, or loss of taste and smell in the next 7 days, please arrange for them to be tested for Covid-19 and inform school of the results whether negative or positive.

Online Learning:

While at home, students should continue to study. Instructions on how to do this are as follows:

As far as possible, teachers will use either Microsoft Teams to deliver live lessons or voiceover powerpoints, at the time at which students would have had their lesson. In some cases, this will not be possible because of staff absence or where we have to use them to cover classes for younger students who are still in school. It may be that where teachers have 2 classes in the same subject that the same lesson will be used for both classes. Some work is therefore likely to be set on Classcharts, and may include PowerPoints with teacher instructions. Links to Microsoft Teams lessons will normally be sent via Classcharts. **As you are aware we have already moved from MILK to Classcharts so we will be using Classcharts only and not MILK to set work and send links.**

It is important that all of our Year 9 students attend these live lessons at the normal time, and I will ask teachers to take a register so that non-attendance can be followed up. If resources are stored in Fldr then students should access this at www.abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk where there is a link on the homepage. Students use their IT username and password to login.



I know that this news will present students and families with a significant challenge and we will support you as best we can through these extraordinary times.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Norden

Principal