



20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

### **Re: Year 8 Covid School Partial Closure**

I am writing to each year group to explain the current situation in your child's year group and layout the plans for the next two weeks.

As you are already aware we have experienced a large number of Coronavirus cases during the last week. With each positive result we have also identified a number of staff and students who are considered to be close contacts. These close contacts have to isolate for 14 days from the last contact that they had with the person who tested positive. As a large number of staff have either tested positive or are classed as a close contact we do not have the appropriate staff ratios to run our normal face to face education.

The situation in year 8 is that 5 children and a number of teachers have now tested positive for coronavirus. This is the highest number of cases we have ever experienced at the Academy. We have identified a large number of possible contacts and as result we need all Year 8 students to **work from home until Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, only returning to school on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November.**

We have had a number of questions from parents around the expectations whilst children work from home. I will provide a response to a number of these below.

#### **When will Year 8 students return to school?**

##### **My child has been identified as a close contact, do they need to stay at home?**

If your child has been in contact with a child who has tested positive they need to isolate at home for 14 days. You will have received a phone call and a letter to indicate this. Your child cannot leave the house and must complete all of the work set on Microsoft Teams.

If your child goes on to develop symptoms of coronavirus the entire household must self-isolate and any member of the household with symptoms must get tested. Please inform school if you receive a positive result.

##### **My child's year group are working from home but they have not been identified as a close contact.**

If they have not been identified as a close contact this reduces the risk of them being exposed to the infection, but it doesn't remove the risk completely. Our advice is that your child isolates in line with the rest of the year group.

If your child goes on to develop symptoms of coronavirus the entire household must self-isolate and any member of the household with symptoms must get tested. Please inform school if you receive a positive result.

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**How will my child access school work?**

Students must log in to Microsoft Teams and follow their normal timetable. If your child is struggling to access Microsoft teams please contact their Head of Year as soon as possible.

**My child is entitled to free school meals. How can they access meals whilst they are at home?**

We have a system in place to discuss food parcels. Please contact your child's Head of Year to discuss this.

If your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or is a close or household contact with somebody with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, they must stay at home as per the national guidelines.

The current plan is that Year 8 students **will return to school on Thursday 26th November**, unless otherwise directed closer to the time.

**If your child's period of self-isolation ends AFTER this date it is imperative they continue to self-isolate until the 14 days is finished.**

Please note that we have a staff INSET day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Children must stay at home on this day.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Maddocks'.

Kevin Maddocks  
Headteacher

