



16 October 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Year group closures for the week commencing 18 October 2021

Towards the end of last week, the public health authorities asked the staff team to take precautionary PCR tests. Over the weekend, this screening process has returned a number of further positive tests among the staff team. We wish those staff and students with the COVID infection a speedy recovery.

Usually, in times of staff absence, we can draw on temporary agency staff, but the local staff agencies we work with are themselves without staff. All of the other schools across the Trust are also facing staffing shortages. The result all of this is that I do not have adequate staff to keep the school open for all year groups.

Due to the 10 day isolation and recovery period for those staff who have been diagnosed as COVID positive, we know that this situation will continue through the week and up to half term.

In order to spread the impact, and to maximise the redeployment of the staff who remain in school, one year group a day will be asked to work from home Monday -Thursday for the week commencing 18 October 2021. **The closures per year group are as follows:**

- Monday 18 October – Year 8;
- Tuesday 19 October – Year 10;
- Wednesday 20 October – Year 11;
- Thursday 21 October – Year 9.

We will work hard to make arrangements for Friday 22 October in order for all students to be in school, at least for part of the day, for their scheduled vaccination. We will clarify arrangements early next week.

Full learning materials will be provided on Google Classroom for those groups working from home. The setting of Google Classroom work may be a little delayed on Monday to give staff the time to post the work.

We will be making on-site special provision for those students in year groups who are children of critical workers or who are considered vulnerable/ identified by the school as needing to be in school over the closure period. If you believe your child qualifies to be in school then please complete the form [here](#) as soon as possible so that we can make the necessary arrangements. The definition of critical workers and vulnerable students can be found [here](#). Students attending the special provision will be supervised to complete work set on Google Classroom and should attend school at the normal time. **Please note that confirmation of your child's space in Special Provision will be confirmed the evening before they are due to attend. This will be sent via email.**

If your child is eligible for free school meals and you would like to collect a packed lunch for your child on the day of closure for their year group, please complete the form [here](#). Please note that an order must be placed before 9:00am on the day of closure and the packed lunch must be collected 10:00-11:00am from the main office.

I am extremely sorry to have had to make this difficult decision. It has become very clear that it is not “business as usual” in schools across the area and our school is far from alone in having to make difficult decisions; we continue to respond to the impact of a pandemic which is very far from over. I appreciate that this decision will create inconvenience and difficulty, but we really have no other option in order to operate the school safely and effectively.

I will write and record a special Headteacher update early in the week and will continue to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Johnson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher