



5 April 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Further year group remote learning rotations

Further to my letter yesterday, we continue to face staffing challenges due to Covid related staff absence. Having reviewed staffing numbers and the likelihood of staff returning tomorrow, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that we will have to continue with our programme of year group closures. **Tomorrow (Wednesday 6 April) year 10 will be asked to work from home**, accessing remote learning on Google Classroom.

Once again, I offer my sincere apologies for the inconvenience this causes everyone. I will assess where we are with staffing for Thursday early tomorrow morning. If a further year group needs to work remotely, this will be year 7.

Ramadan

During the period of Ramadan, we are attempting to find alternative spaces for those observing the fast to use (rather than sitting in the dining room). This may not be possible every day, due to pressure on room space and the need for staff to be available to supervise. We will, however, do our best to facilitate this. We will be asking students using this option to ensure that they are using the time for contemplation, reflection, reading or prayer. Any students who are unable to meet this expectation will need to be supervised in the main dining area.

For students who are fasting, we would ask that they eat well, with a balanced meal when breaking the fast and during the pre-dawn meal and have plenty to drink when fast is broken. Students should avoid over-exertion, especially if the weather gets particularly warm and that they should take periods of rest before and after school.

The Muslim Council of Britain has produced a useful guide, supported by the NHS, which can be found here: <https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Ramadan-a-guide-to-healthy-fasting-NHS.pdf>

Please note that in the event of a student becoming dehydrated, we will give water to fasting students. Although some Muslims believe that this technically breaks the fast, it can be compensated for later, and the health and wellbeing of students is always our first priority.

Students who observe the fast will be expected to fully participate in the curriculum. This includes music and drama lessons. Fasting students will also be expected to participate in PE lessons, although the PE team will be mindful of those students fasting and adjust activities accordingly.

Finally, at the conclusion of Ramadan, the festival of Eid al-Fitr is celebrated. If parents decide that their child should not attend school on this day for the purpose of religious observance, then parents are required to **inform the school in writing prior to Eid al-Fitr**. Please also note that a maximum of one day of absence will be authorised and we would not expect student absence for Eid to extend more than one day. Most guidance on the date of Eid al-Fitr this year suggests that it will take place on Monday 2 May 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr A Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher