

Dear Parents

I am writing to let you know that we have had to take the very difficult decision to reduce the number of students on site each day.

We have made every effort to continue to provide an outstanding education to all our students whilst maintaining an environment that is as safe as possible. Unfortunately, there are a number of staff who are absent and this has left us with a significantly depleted level of staffing to effectively maintain all students' education and safety in school, which is of course our first priority.

As a result, I have reluctantly made the decision to introduce a revised timetable which means that not all year groups will attend school on a full-time basis until Monday 13th December. The details of the new arrangements are outlined below. I would like to assure all of our families that this decision has not been taken lightly and that if our circumstances change for the better then we will return to our normal operation as quickly as possible. However, if there are further teacher absences over the coming days then we may be forced to ask year groups to stay at home on additional days.

Please note that Years 11 and 13 will remain in school full-time and will follow their normal timetable. We have prioritised these year groups due to the fact that they are preparing for their external exams and they have already been disproportionately affected by school closures since the beginning of the pandemic.

For Years 7-10 and 12, the table below indicates the days that each year group will **not** be in school:

Thursday 2 nd December	Year 9
Friday 3 rd December	Year 10
Monday 6 th December	Year 7
Tuesday 7 th December	Year 8
Wednesday 8 th December	Year 9
Thursday 9 th December	Year 10
Friday 10 th December	Year 12

The school remains committed to providing a high-quality curriculum to all students whether they are in school or learning from home. On the days that students are required to learn from home, they should continue to follow their usual timetable and work will be provided on Show My Homework for them to complete independently. This includes mentor time.

We fully appreciate the impact that this will have on our young people and yourselves as parents and carers. We apologise for the additional disruption to learning and family life that these measures will inevitably bring but hope it is understood that the school would not be taking these exceptional measures unless it was absolutely essential to do so.

I am very grateful for your continued patience and understanding as well as your commitment to supporting your child's learning and progress during any enforced absence from school. We will continue to communicate regularly with all our families and send any relevant updates to you as promptly as possible.

Yours faithfully



Paul McKeown
Principal



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