

Dear parents and carers,

Further to my letter on Tuesday 17th March, I am writing to inform you that due to the number of our staff who have been advised to self-isolate, we are no longer able to run the school safely at full capacity. As a result, I have made the decision to temporarily suspend Year 12 lessons, effective immediately. This means Year 12 students should not come into school tomorrow (Thursday 18th March). Other students should attend as normal.

I appreciate this decision will cause significant inconvenience to some of you, and I am truly sorry. However, the safety of our staff and students must come first.

We have been planning for this possibility for some time, and have a strong plan in place for students to learn from home:

From tomorrow, Year 12 will switch to studying in our virtual school, via Google Classroom. Teachers will set work every day, following their normal timetable. So if a student would have had Maths during Period 1 on Friday, we will expect them to spend 55 minutes working on Maths on Friday.

Each lesson will include input from the teacher, and a task for each student to complete independently. This needs to be submitted to their teacher by the end of the day, and we will be calling home for any students who don't complete sufficient work each day.

I am enclosing some guidance we have put together for pupils, parents and carers on how to use Google Classroom. We have also sent students home with a spare exercise book, so that they can complete work by hand and upload photos of it.

If you have any questions about the work, please do not hesitate to contact us. I have included some useful contact details with on working from home – please avoid calling the office unless it is urgent, as we are experiencing a high volume of calls.

Finally, please can I thank you for your support in these uncertain times. We have been completely overwhelmed at Holmleigh Park with the messages of support from our community. I could not be more proud of the calm and stoic way your children have approached the last few weeks, and I am absolutely confident that if they continue to work as hard as they have done up until this point, they will continue to make good progress over the coming weeks.

I will write to you again when I am able to comment on when the school will reopen to all students.

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Farmbrough Headteacher

Mr Patrick Farmbrough, Headteacher