

10th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Partial School Closure of Year 7

This afternoon we were made aware of a positive case of COVID-19 from a student within Year 7, and following consultation with Public Health England we have been advised to close the school to students in Year 7 until Tuesday 22nd September.

As per the guidelines, as your child is being asked to isolate having been in social contact with a child with COVID 19, but not as a result of displaying symptoms, Public Health England request that you do not pursue tests for your children unless they display symptoms. They have advised that we cannot welcome children back to school until the 22nd September regardless of the outcome of any test. As the school has effectively implemented the year group bubble methodology, we have been advised to close just the Year 7 bubble, as a precaution to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

At present we have had no other confirmed cases in any other year group and will be able to continue to provide the same provision for students in all these other year groups. This approach follows the process described in the school's risk assessment and is designed to minimise risk within the school.

For those students in Years 7, we will implement our contingency plan for the next few weeks. For this, students will receive submitted work from Show My Homework and complete this as part of a learning cycle that includes an online video lesson delivered by your child's teacher, an extended task to complete and feedback from the classroom teacher. New log in details will be provided immediately to support your child with this and we will call to check your understanding.

The letter that will be sent out to students will include a simple pin that students need to enter into the <https://www.satchelone.com/login> website. This will activate their account and allow them to set their own password. Once logged in they will see clear details of how to access and submit their work during this period. To support you further you will also receive a new parent/carer log in, which will enable you to monitor this work. If you have any issues with the login there is a dedicated support line for our students on the website.

During this time you will receive a weekly call from your form tutor to check on your child's wellbeing and to ensure that your child is able to access and submit the work online. Where technology issues mean work cannot be accessed online we will organise a short-term laptop loan where possible. If the demand for additional technology cannot be met we will issue work in hard copy form.

During this period the Year 7 teaching areas will receive a thorough deep clean to ensure that the space is ready for their return.

Whilst I appreciate it may be concerning that many schools in the area have had to follow this approach when dealing with confirmed COVID-19 cases, however, we would like to state that this is a precautionary measure, which allows us to continue to deliver a full education to the majority of students at the school and to safely remote educate others for a short period of time prior to their safe return.

We are deeply sorry to have to take this measure, as we have been thoroughly enjoying spending time with your children, who have been incredible since they've started. We are really proud of them all and cannot wait to welcome them back.

Yours sincerely,

Mark McLaughlin
Headteacher

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