



17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Ashlyns School - Partial Closure

Further to my text/email earlier this evening, I would like to take this opportunity to outline the current situation in more detail and confirm the arrangements for Wednesday 18 March.

You will be aware that, on Monday 16 March, the government introduced a range of more stringent measures in order to help delay the spread of the Coronavirus. Critically, this included:

- the introduction of further social distancing measures for people with underlying health conditions; and
- new isolation measures for whole households, where one member displays a key symptom of infection (namely a new, continuous cough or a high temperature)

This has resulted in a number of school staff who are now unable to attend work. As such, I have taken the difficult decision to limit access to the school tomorrow, which means Year 9 students will be expected to study from home for the day. Work will be made available for them to complete, during the course of the day, via Google Classroom.

Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience this is likely to cause; however, it is essential for the safe operation of the school site that I am able to provide adequate staffing and coverage throughout the school day. Those students attending school are also likely to be affected through the absence of some of their teachers. Where this is the case, supervision will usually be provided by members of the school's senior leadership team.

This is a situation which is likely to continue to develop and we will endeavour to keep you updated and give you as much notice as possible. To this end we will review the staffing situation on Wednesday evening and let you know about arrangements for Thursday.

It seems that I am thanking you for your support on a daily basis, but we are very appreciative of your cooperation and understanding. Finally, I would also like you to know how proud I am of the way our students are conducting themselves and asking mature, sensible questions about the situation, whilst remaining engaged and focused on their studies.

Yours sincerley

James Shapland
Headteacher