

17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear parents/carers,

**Re: Partial school closure for Year 8, Year 9 to return to school Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Further to my letter yesterday, I promised to update you on the arrangements for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Having looked at the staffing situation, we have taken the decision to close for students in Year 8 but will be able to have Year 9 students in school.

Therefore, Year 9 students should travel into school as normal. Please note that we have postponed the non-uniform day. We hope to run this next Friday but this will obviously depend on the situation moving forwards.

Students in Year 8 will have work set for them via Class Charts for all of their lessons on Friday. They should follow their usual timetable for the day, completing the work set whilst at home. They should not be out during the school day.

Whilst we are glad that we can welcome Year 9 students back, I am very sorry that we have had to take this decision and for the further disruption to Year 8 students and their families. We have spent a significant amount of time today working through possible scenarios and unfortunately, there are still significant pressures. Given the fact that none of the staff who are following guidance and self-isolating, will be able to return before Monday at the earliest, and that agency cover staff remain in short supply, we felt unable to operate with all students in school tomorrow.

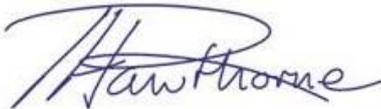
Whilst it is our intention to be fully open to all year groups from Monday, obviously this is a dynamic situation. We are likely to continue to face significant challenges and this may not be possible.

I will be writing to all families in the morning to ask them to keep a close eye on communications over the weekend and on Monday morning, in case there is further disruption. I ask you to do the same. Clearly, we will give consideration to the disruption already caused to some students and their families in our decision making, should we need to put in place any further closures.

As I stated yesterday, we are dealing with circumstances outside of our control, but I am very sorry that this will further impact some families. I thank you for your patience and support for the school as we work through these difficult times.

If you have any queries, then please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr R Hawthorne**  
Head of School