

16th March 2022

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to inform you that we have taken the difficult decision to close JOG to Year 8 and Year 9 students tomorrow, Thursday 17th March 2022, and that students in those Year Groups should learn from home. All other year groups should attend school as normal.

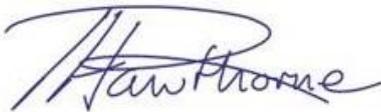
Over the past few days, we have been dealing with significant staff shortages due to illness, largely due to Covid. DfE guidance maintains that self-isolation is still a requirement for school staff. By this evening, we have a third of teaching staff unwell and a small number of admin and support staff too. With Covid cases doubling nationally in the past week, many schools are suffering these shortages and this has also meant that agency cover staff are in extremely short supply. Consequently, with staff shortages as they are, we have to weigh up the provision we can realistically offer as well as being able to operate the school safely without taking this action. Having worked throughout today and this evening, we have exhausted all other options.

Students in Year 8 and Year 9 will have work set for them via Class Charts for all of their lessons on Thursday and should follow their usual timetable for the day, completing work whilst at home. Potentially, we may also need to close to Years 8 and 9 on Friday 18th March 2022, but we will contact you by the end of the day tomorrow to confirm if this is the case.

I am very sorry that we have had to take this decision and for the inconvenience this will doubtless cause your family. I hope that you will understand that we have only done this as a last resort and it is due to circumstances outside of our control.

If you have any queries then please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Hawthorne
Head of School