



17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update 4

The situation at the High School has continued to evolve and once again I need to tell you of its implications for your sons and daughters.

As many of you will already know, today we have had to ask Year 12 to work at home. This was because eleven members of staff, although individually fit and well, found themselves obliged to remain at home under the restrictions announced on Monday evening.

During today our situation has taken a turn for the worse. As I write this I know that we shall be 21 staff short in the morning, with none of them coming back to work for at least several days. By tomorrow morning we could have lost still more.

It is now inevitable that we ask a further year group to remain at home. **From tomorrow morning, 18th March, I am asking both Years 10 and 12 to work at home.**

In choosing these particular years we had we have had two priorities in mind. We are trying to protect as much as possible the year groups which face external exams, and we have also wanted to avoid causing parents who contribute to essential services taking time off their work.

Students in Years 10 and 12 will find that their teachers, assuming they are themselves able to work, are providing them with structured programmes of work. You will be able to see these on e-Praise; they will also be sent directly to students' school email accounts. When students want to raise questions arising from the assignments they should realise that the staff concerned will not necessarily be available at the times of the normal lesson. They may well be covering for absent colleagues, but they will respond as soon as they can.

I shall continue to keep you in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Waters