



17 March 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

Partial College Closure: March 18 2020

I am writing to you with details of a partial closure of the College with effect from tomorrow, March 18 2020. The College will be **closed to all Y8 and Y9 students**.

All other year groups, including Y14 foundation art students, will be expected to attend as usual.

This decision is not one we have taken lightly. I wrote to you all on Friday outlining that full or partial closure may result from increased staff absence as teachers and support staff rightly follow national advice on self-isolation.

Over the past two days the picture of staff absence has developed to a point where we cannot remain fully open and guarantee student safety and supervision to the level we would wish. Please note the following information;

Students in Y7, Y10 & Y11

Students in these year groups should go straight to their usual timetabled lessons. If their usual teacher is unavailable, they will be covered by a colleague from the same subject area wherever possible.

Students in Y12 and Y13

Kennicott building will be closed for all lessons and all Y12 and Y13 lessons will be re-roomed on Redworth site. Year 12 and Year 13 students should report to the Redworth library on arrival in school to find details of room changes. If their usual teachers are absent, we will ensure that work is set and that Y12 and Y13 students have dedicated quiet study spaces in which to work independently.

Y13 and Y11 Parents Evening Thursday 19 March

This event is now cancelled. Please contact your daughter or son's teachers directly should you wish to have an update on their progress.

Length of Closure

At this stage, it is difficult to predict future developments and we need to be able to react to absence levels. I can assure you we will continue to review these closely. Please assume for now that this partial closure will remain in place for the remainder of this week, up to and including Friday March 20 2020.

Work set remotely

We are working with teachers to try to ensure suitable work is set remotely for students via **Classcharts** or **Google Classroom**. Whilst we use these platforms commonly, setting work on this scale for a multi-day closure is new for staff. We want to provide as much continuity and support to our students as possible, however I would ask your patience over the next 48 hours as staff adjust to this new situation.

We are aware of the possibilities of video links between students and teachers, and are exploring the viability of these for us in terms of safeguarding and software. At this time this is not something we can put in place.

Student Absences

Please continue to follow the guidance issued nationally and referred to in my letter to you earlier today around self-isolation. Please report directly to us if your daughter or son is unable to attend school because of Coronavirus symptoms.

It is clear at this stage that schools across the country are facing uncharted territory. Whilst we all hope closures will be short and limited, I can assure you that we are preparing for all possible scenarios. We will continue to be guided by official advice and our responsibility to try to maintain the best possible education for our students in a safe and practical way. Your support to us and to students at this time is really appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Salt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Salt
Principal