



Ref: YPE/era

Date: 19 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you that we must extend the period of school closure to Year 7, 8 and 9, and these year groups will need to remain at home for next week also (Monday 23 to Friday 27 November).

Unfortunately, the situation regarding safe levels of staffing has not improved over the course of this week, with Track and Trace requiring an increasing number of staff to self-isolate. You will be aware from the media that Swale is being hit particularly hard with Covid-19 cases at present.

Although these are difficult times, we have relatively small numbers directly affected here in school. Their speedy recovery is paramount now, and we are all wishing them well.

So that you are clear on the picture, please see below a brief breakdown of cases in students in our school community. Please consider that there are over 1530 students on roll, with between 200 to 270 students in each year group. As you know from previous correspondence, we are being very careful about isolating groups of students around each positive case.

Year 7	4
Year 8	3
Year 9	4
Year 10	2
Year 11	6
Sixth Form	1

Importantly, we remain open to Year 10, 11, 12 and 13, and students from these year groups should attend as normal. Please be reminded that if your child is isolating, they should not return until their period of isolation has been completed.

We are very much hoping that next week we will see an improved picture and that we will be able to increase our provision to include other year groups.

In the meantime, all students at home should be engaging with online learning through Google Classroom. Their teachers are uploading lessons and monitoring this closely.

Starting on Tuesday 24 November, we will be operating a limited provision for keyworker, EHCP and vulnerable students from Year 7, 8 and 9. We will be in touch with details on how you can request this support.

We understand the pressures that the closure of Year 7 to 9 may be placing on families, but sadly there are many aspects to the current situation that are beyond our control.

Again, we will let you know immediately should there be any developments.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and understanding.

Yours faithfully



Ms Y Peden  
Headteacher