

27<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear parents and carers

Following news of another positive Covid case in Year 12 this weekend, we have taken the decision to **close school to Year 12 students for the coming week** (i.e. 28<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July inclusive). All lessons will instead take place online as they did during the last lockdown.

The latest case means that we now have five 'live' cases in Year 12 and around sixty students self-isolating as a result (albeit with one case due to return to school tomorrow). We are also aware of a significant number of Year 13 students who have tested positive recently and, although they left school a few weeks ago, we know many of them tend to socialise with current Year 12 students. Overall, with just short of a third of the year group having to access lessons remotely already and concerns about the virus spreading further and causing more disruption, keeping Year 12 students at home for the week as a 'circuit break' seems the most sensible option. We only have two live cases in the whole of the main school at the moment and so this appears very much to be predominantly a sixth form issue.

Unless your child has been identified as a 'close contact' (in which case you will have been contacted separately) this does not mean they have to self-isolate in the sense of not being able to leave home – they can, for example, still attend any part-time jobs or sports clubs. However, we do ask that you encourage them to be sensible and follow all social distancing guidelines; we have certainly seen evidence of transmission via social gatherings and, aside from the health risks, really don't want more students having to miss more school.

**Please also make sure that your child takes a lateral flow test today and on Wednesday**, as well as completing the [usual school form](#) and the [government version](#) so that we can keep track of the results.

Depending on circumstances, we may be able to accommodate a small number of individual students who are considered vulnerable or who, for whatever reason, are unable to access lessons remotely. Please contact Mrs Jennings directly if this might be the case for your child.

Please contact our remote learning co-ordinator, Miss Heeks, if there are any problems with accessing live lessons.

Apologies for the inconvenience but I trust you appreciate the reasons behind the decision. Given that mock exams are now complete and that remote learning generally worked very well for sixth form students during lockdown, we hope and expect that there won't be any significant disruption to learning.

Kind regards



Gwyn Williams

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