

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you are well.

This is a quick update. As you are aware, I took the difficult decision to send home Year 9 pupils for at least 2 weeks. Over the next 24 hours, tasks will appear in Frog for pupils to complete. In the meantime, pupils can access Hegarty Maths. Please bear with us because my staff are planning for and teaching those in school as well as covering lessons etc.

The justification for sending pupils home was because I did not have enough staff to ensure a quality education. The ratio of pupils to staff was too great and the safety of pupils was my greatest concern. I chose Year 9 because I did not wish disrupt the GCSE Year groups (10 & 11) and Year 7 & 8 are the youngest. This left me with Year 9! For the record, there are no confirmed cases of any pupil in Year 9 diagnosed with Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

If you have been following the news today you will be aware that schools in Wales and Scotland are to close from Friday. I anticipate a statement will be made by our Prime Minister early this evening, around 5pm. I have no other information on the situation for England.

The past few days have been a challenge for everyone, schools and families alike but I would just like to say that my teaching and support staff have been amazing. It is a real challenge having to cover lessons that are not your regular class or even the subject you are trained to teach. We are also running on skeleton staff in our reception, office, estates team and catering team. However, the atmosphere in the school is very positive and pupil behaviour has been exemplary.

Thank you for your continued support.

Remember to wash your hands!!!

Yours faithfully



Darren Luckhurst  
Principal

NHS Coronavirus updates can be found here  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>