**Emergency School Closure for All Year 9 Students**

Dear Parent/Carers,

It is with regret that I have to inform you that we are requesting all Year 9 students to remain at home on Tuesday 17th March 2020 until further notice.

This is a precautionary measure in case of increased staff absence, following the Government’s announcement yesterday.

Any staff shortages would mean that we were unable to adequately supervise students at the required ratios. This is not a risk I am willing to take. Year 9 have been chosen because they are old enough to take responsibility for their own learning and have not yet started their GCSE coursework. Work will be set via our intranet and students are expected to work from home.

We have had a small number of staff reporting absent last week and today also. I’m expecting further staff absence this morning from the vulnerable group which the government spoke of yesterday. None have confirmed or suspected cases of Coronavirus. Some have minor flu-like symptoms that the Government are recommending they respond to by self-isolating at home with their families. These are control measures being used as part of the next phase of the Government Action Plan.

At present, there are no plans to extend this measure any further than this week, but of course, we will keep you updated. Please use the school website and official Twitter feed to stay up-to-date. We will also be communicating via email.

Thank you for your continued support. There is information via Public Health England or our website.

Please contact us if you require any further information. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Yours faithfully,

Anesta McCullagh

Head of School