

10.01.22

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Enforced Partial School Closure: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic**

The health, safety and welfare of our students, staff, families and the community are at the forefront of the decisions we make as a school. In light of the current public health emergency, it is with regret that we have had to make the decision to carry out an enforced partial closure to Year 9. At this moment in time, exceptional levels of staff absence means that we cannot safely accommodate all students in the academy. **We have made the decision to close to Year 9 from Tuesday 11th January for the remainder of the week.** Should staffing levels improve, and it becomes safe to do so, we will alert you that we are reopening to Year 9 sooner.

The academy remains open as normal to all other year groups.

#### **Home Learning**

We have previously communicated with you to explain what the process is for setting work for students who are working from home and students are well aware of this process. Students should access their lessons as normal, at the normal time, via Google Classroom. Some lessons will be live, some pre-recorded and some will have work posted for students to complete. In order for parents/carers to support their children at home, we have created a Home Learning webpage which provides guidance on how to access Google Classroom. This can be accessed via the link below.

<https://sites.google.com/carlton.outwood.com/oaca-home-learning/google-classroom-guidance>

If your child has any issues regarding accessing their lessons, please do not hesitate to contact the academy, either by phone or through the 'Contact us' page on the academy website.

Because of staff absence, it is possible that some lessons will not be provided through Google Classroom. In this case, a lot of additional work is also available to all students via:

- Sparx Maths <https://sparx.co.uk/>
- Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/>
- BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://science.outwood.com/>
- <https://sites.google.com/outwood.com/maths/home>

#### **Free School Meal Parcel**

We have support available for families of students in receipt of free school meals in the form of a food parcel. Please let us know, by contacting the school via phone or the 'Contact us' page on the academy website, if you would like to collect one of these.

#### **Vulnerable children**

We recognise that some of our children are particularly vulnerable. For example, children who have an EHCP, have a Child in Need plan or a Child Protection plan, have a social worker or those who have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by the academy or the Local Authority. If your child is in Year 9 and you believe that they fall into the 'vulnerable' category and you would like them to attend school this week, please contact us on 01226 728494 Ext 214 or through 'Contact Us' on the academy website. Please note that the provision in school will be limited and that to a large extent, children will access online learning and not receive any direct face to face teaching.

As I'm sure you will understand, the decision to close the academy to even one year group is something which I have not done lightly. Thank you for your understanding and support during this difficult time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PH' with a large circular flourish and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul Haynes  
Principal