



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our Ref: JMK/SXG

14 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **School Closure for Year 11 and 12 Students Only**

Over the last week, the school has seen an increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Years 11 and 12.

Today I have liaised with Public Health Lincolnshire, the Local Authority and the Chair of Governors and a decision has been made for Year 11 and 12 students to now access education remotely at home to prevent any possible future transmission of COVID-19. **The school will therefore close to all Year 11 and 12 students from the end of today (Monday 14 December)** and will remain closed for the remaining 3 days of term.

The decision to revert to remote learning for Year 11 and 12 students only has not been taken lightly, but in these circumstances, it is the right decision to minimise any further risk of transmission in school within these year groups.

The school has tried very hard to deploy staff flexibility and to recruit additional staff to cover lessons. However, we have a significant number of staff absent due to COVID-19 issues, so we are unable to cover all lessons in school. By reverting to remote learning for Years 11 and 12, this will allow the school to staff other year-group lessons and therefore keep the rest of the school open.

Asking Year 11 and 12 students to remain at home should have less impact on childcare issues for younger children. Year 11 and 12 students will receive an authorised absence for the remaining 3 days of term.

I would like to emphasise that this is not a position that we would want to find ourselves in. We have tried to keep the school open to all year groups for as long as possible. Sadly, the nature of COVID-19 has forced us to take this decision.

## **The school intends to remain open for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13.**

Please note that if you have a child in Year 11/12 who is already self-isolating from a confirmed case, they must remain in self-isolation until this time period has elapsed. Other Year 11 and 12 students do not need to self-isolate.

Please be reassured that the school has, and will continue to take all preventative measures possible to protect the school community from COVID-19.

## **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should take a test and self-isolate until the test result is received. If the test is positive students must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of first symptoms/test. If



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the test is negative and they are well, they can stop isolating. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 .

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days or until a negative test is received. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

### **Symptoms of COVID 19**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

### **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

*Do*

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

### **Further Information**

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>



### **Year 11 and 12 School Work**

Your child's teachers will now set work during the self-isolation period via the VLE. Tasks will closely mirror the work being studied in school where possible.

Tasks will be uploaded to the VLE and should be available for the normal lesson time. Please note that live TEAMS lessons will NOT be available for the remaining 3 days of term because staff will be redeployed to cover other lessons from absent colleagues.

Your child should use the 'Reset' button on the VLE daily to check for new work set.

Your child should submit any work requested via the VLE by the given deadline and will receive feedback within the normal timeframe either via the VLE or on their return to school. If your child needs help with the work set then they should contact their teacher via the comments section of the VLE task.

Please contact the school if your child has any issues accessing remote education.

### **For Year 11 and 12 only**

#### **Students of Critical Workers and those who are classed as vulnerable**

If you are a critical worker or your child is classed as vulnerable (see link below for details) they are entitled to continue to attend school and access full-time education if you wish them to do so. However, it is your decision whether to keep your child at home. Normal lessons for Year 11 and 12 students will not go ahead in school and students will access work via the VLE, which mirrors the work set for those students working from home. Year 11 and 12 students will be in year-group bubbles with Year 11 being supervised. If you would like your child to attend school for the last 3 days of term, please email [wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk). Students should report to the main hall at 9am each day.

For any vulnerable students attending or students whose parents are critical workers, they can continue to travel to school by their normal mode of transport following social distancing measures. They should bring a packed lunch as normal or one can be ordered from the school canteen if they are entitled to Free School Meals.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

I am very sorry to have to inform you of this and appreciate the difficulties it causes families, especially as we approach Christmas, but it is the right decision to make at this moment in time.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours faithfully

**Jonathan Knowler**  
**Headteacher**