

7th December 2020

Dear Parents

As you will be aware, we have had a number of students diagnosed with COVID-19 over the last few weeks and we have isolated year groups as and when this has been necessary. Today we have had two further cases identified in our school which resulted in us asking all except the year 7s to remain at home from this morning.

Unfortunately, the spreading pandemic has now started to have a significant impact upon our teaching and support staff; we have a small number of staff who have been diagnosed but many more have been directed to self isolate due to contact they have had with people both in and out of school.

We have today unfortunately reached a tipping point with nearly 40 staff currently diagnosed, awaiting test results, self isolating, or without childcare. Therefore, as from tomorrow, Tuesday 8th December, we will be closing the school to all year groups and reverting to online learning via Microsoft Teams.

This decision has been made in full consultation with the local authority and I have also informed the Chair of Governors this morning. In addition, I have had a lengthy conversation with David Anderson, Headteacher of QE Grammar School, who is in a parallel situation and we both believe this is the safest decision we can make at this stage.


As you will be aware, our online provision through MS Teams means that we feel confident that we can continue with our high-quality delivery of lessons online.

Our teaching staff will continue to plan lessons and deliver through a combination of live lessons and set work via that portal. We expect there may be a period of up to 24 hours delay whilst we implement the transition to online learning. All of the resources students need for every lesson will be made available to them on MS Teams and an on-line timetable will be following shortly.

The school will remain open for the children of key workers and vulnerable students. If you need your child to attend school because they fall into one of these categories, please email info@abbeyschoolfaversham.co.uk stating your child's name and year group and the days this week and next that they will need to be in school. Your child will follow the remote learning programme and therefore will be working from a computer in school that will have been thoroughly cleaned and sanitised. It would also be helpful if they could bring in headphones to use.

Children from Years 9 and 10, who are currently isolating at home, and any students from other year groups who have been told to self isolate, must continue to do so until the end dates outlined in the recent letters, i.e. 14th December for Y9, 18th December for Y10, 9th December years 11, 12 & 13.

We believe that it is the safest step to extend this arrangement until the end of term. With students isolated from any risks at school over the next nine days, they can then approach the Christmas holidays safe in the knowledge that they do not pose a risk to families over the festive period, a point which many of you have been making over the last few days.



Dr R Speller
Headteacher