

Sponne School

A Music & Science Academy



Inspiring
Achievement

Thursday 19th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Update on Partial Closure due to Coronavirus

Can I begin my letter by thanking you all for your fabulous support during this time. The decisions that we are having to make at school during these difficult circumstances could never have been imagined 12 months ago and the uncertainty about what could happen next makes this a very stressful time for us all. I fully understand and appreciate your concerns for your children and wanted to reassure you that the priority in all the decisions we make is to ensure their safety and secondly support their learning in the best way we can.

On Monday I wrote to inform you that we had two staff members who had tested positive and more than 6 others who had been tracked and traced. We have had one further positive case of a member of staff who has been self-isolating and now have a total of 14 other teachers who have been tracked and traced and are having to self-isolate. Since last week we have also had 6 positive cases amongst students in Year 11. I therefore made the decision yesterday that Year 11 would complete their current mock exams at home and would return to school on Thursday 3rd December. There is no doubt in my mind that the current higher number of cases that we have seen in school are linked to the increased numbers within our community in the last two to three weeks. However, I am also confident that the partial closure I have put into place will help to reduce this current higher level of transmission alongside your support in ensuring students follow all the current rules of lockdown.

The majority of staff currently working from home are due to end their self-isolation next weekend and therefore the school will remain closed for students in **Years 8 and 9** next week. They will **return to lessons on Monday 30th November**. Students at home should continue to follow their normal timetable and log in to any live lessons that take place. Please be aware that teachers at school are still having to cover some lessons for Years 7, 10, 12 and 13 and there will be occasions when they are not available as scheduled. If this is the case, work will be set and teachers will catch up with the students once they are available.

I will continue to update you with any information I receive but in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any other queries.

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher

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