

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following Mr Sibley's letter to all parents and carers across the STAR MAT schools on Friday and the announcement of a partial closure at Tadcaster Grammar School, I thought it helpful to provide some current Sherburn High School specific information.

### **The current directive is that schools should not close in relation to Covid-19**

Therefore, our main focus remains on that of the continued education of our students within a safe and secure environment; and ensuring that we take all reasonable steps based on the specific advice and guidance provided to us in daily briefings from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE).

### **Actions taken to protect our staff and students**

In addition to measures already communicated relating to the importance of hygiene, the school has taken the decision to implement the following measures:

- Educational trips and visits scheduled to take place this term have been cancelled (and will be convened at an alternative time where possible and/or appropriate).
- Sports fixtures scheduled to take place have been cancelled.
- The Year 10 Parents' Evenings, "Bugsy Malone" and any other equivalent events have been postponed.
- Visits to the school by both members of the public and parents/carers will be strictly by appointment only. Wherever possible, parental meetings will take place over the phone, however, if a face to face meeting is required, this will need to be approved in advance.
- Staff will not be attending courses or non-essential external meetings.
- The biometric system used for the purchase of food and drink will cease to be used during break and lunchtime services; instead staff at the till will ask students for their names and log onto their accounts via the main till.
- Assemblies and sixth form tutorials will be cancelled.
- The Harewood Charity Day proposed for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March will also be postponed.

The above measures will remain under review with any further decision communicated to parents / carers based upon the guidance available.

In setting out the actions above, there are clearly financial implications for parents / carers where monies have been paid for a range of planned educational trips, visits and "Bugsy Malone". The school will be working with our insurers the Risk Protection Agency (RPA) in seeking to recover monies paid.

We will keep all parents / carers updated on progress as soon as possible, and would ask for your patience in this respect as there is likely to be a high volume of enquiries.

### **Planning for the potential of a directed school closure**

Should the school be directed to close, please be reassured that the school and Trust have plans in place to respond. These plans specifically include the following factors:

- Safe closure of the school for students and staff.
- Securing clear channels of communication for parents / carers to and from the school.
- The provision of work for students via Show My Homework.

Should there be a need to close the school, we will ensure that any measures to be taken are communicated to parents / carers using the usual channels available (email, text message, message on the school website and Twitter).

### **What can you do to help us?**

As a parent/carers, you'll need to take the following decisions:

- if you believe your child to be at a heightened risk of exposure, please act accordingly and self-isolate them.
- If your child exhibits a cough or a high temperature, **DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL.** The child and the rest of the family who reside in the home are to self-isolate for a period of 14 days (adults and children).
- As school is open, we would expect only those children who are at heightened risk or those exhibiting identified symptoms (and their siblings) not to be in school. Everyone else should be present.

Given that school is open and staff are having to not only plan the lessons that they are currently delivering and prepare for a potential school closure, it is not possible for us to send students individual work packs. We advise, that any self-isolated students continue to review Show my Homework, and keep abreast of the work their classmates are doing, by completing homework tasks.

Please could you check that you are receiving emails from school and that you inform us if your email address has changed.

Please can you ensure that your child is able to access Show my Homework – if they have any problems with accessing this, please could they alert their form tutor who will show them how to use this site.

Thank you in advance for your continued support in this difficult time,

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley