

8th December 2020

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 8** and some of **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 8** from **Wednesday 9th December until the end of term. Year 8 students will return on Monday 4th January 2021**. Should staffing levels improve, and if it becomes safe to do so, we will alert you that we are reopening to **Year 8** sooner.

Year 9 students in **X band** - school will be closed to them on 9th, 10th, 11th and 14th December. They will return to school on Tuesday 15th December until the end of term.

Year 9 students in **Y band** - school will be closed to them on 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th December. They will return to school on Monday 4th January 2020.

(If you are unclear as to which band your child is in, please contact the academy and we will be able to advise you)

Home Learning

We have a strong plan in place for home learning via Google Classroom. Students should be up and learning by 8:25am each morning. They should go to their tutor group Google Classroom to begin with and then follow their normal timetable for the week by visiting the correct classrooms and the correct times. Some lessons will be live, some pre-recorded and some will have work posted for students to complete. Pens and paper are essential and can be available for you to pick up at school if you need.

All students have been shown how to access Google Classroom and we have checked that they have their login and password details. Should you need any support with Google Classroom or internet access then please contact the academy by calling 01909 471010 ext 264 or emailing enquiries@portland.outwood.com.

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. **Year 8s** - please arrange for these to be collected from the academy at 10am on Wednesday 9th December and then again at 10am on Tuesday 15th December

Year 9 X Band - please arrange for these to be collected from the academy at 11am on Wednesday 9th December

Year 9 Y Band - please arrange for these to be collected from the academy at 11am on Wednesday 15th December

If Key Worker parents (defined by Government guidelines) are unable to keep their child at home, provision will be made for the child to be in school. Please complete this form if your child falls into this category ([link to form here](#)).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during this time and I wish Year 8 students a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Dzoboku', enclosed within a hand-drawn circular scribble.

Mr G Dzoboku
Principal