

30th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Enforced Partial School Closure: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

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. I know that this may give rise to challenges for you, and I am aware that they have already missed periods of time in the Academy - however we are working hard to provide an excellent online learning provision which we expect your son/daughter to access and we are monitoring the progress of all students very carefully. We will continue to work tirelessly to address any gaps in knowledge they might develop in order that they can continue to flourish as learners and develop as adults.

At this moment in time, exceptional levels of staff absence for the next few days means that we cannot safely accommodate all students in the school. We have made the decision to close to Year 8 from **Monday 31st January 2022 until Tuesday 1st February 2022**. This is not a decision that we have taken lightly - however we would not want to compromise the safety of our students, nor the quality of lessons. Since Friday last week we have implemented combined classes and had staff from other Outwood academies in to support us in an attempt to keep our students in school and in classrooms.

Should staffing levels improve, and it becomes safe to do so, we will alert you to the fact that we are reopening to Year 8 sooner. 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. Regardless of the situation, Year 8 will return on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 - if the staffing situation is still the same we will move an alternative year group to online learning and will notify the relevant families of this in a timely manner.

Home Learning

We have a plan in place for home learning via Google Classroom. Students should be up and learning by 8:25am each morning. Students should log into Google Classroom and follow their normal timetable for the week by visiting the correct 'classrooms' at the correct times. Some lessons may 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 should they be required.

All students have been shown how to access Google Classroom and we have checked that they have their login and password details. Should students need any support with Google Classroom please email enquiries@portland.outwood.com detailing the student's name and the nature of your concern. If your child does not have access to a computer please notify the academy. Paper based work packs will also be available for collection from reception.

Free School Meals

We have support available for families of students in receipt of free school meals in the form of a food parcel. Please let us know, by completing the following form [Food parcel request form](#)

Vulnerable and Key Worker

If you are a key worker and are unable to make arrangements for them to be looked after - please visit our website and complete the [Key Worker form](#) so that we know to expect them in school. Please be clear on the days that they will be in school and please contact the school immediately should this change so that we can ensure that your child is recorded in the register appropriately.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during this time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Sheehan'.

Mrs D Sheehan
Principal