



13 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you know, the School has had one positive case of covid-19 in either Year 12 or Year 14 on each day of this week. Anxiety is understandably high amongst the girls and they are worried that they will be unable to take their mock examinations if they contract covid-19 in school or have to self-isolate as close contacts. Each case results in room closures and it would only take a few cases in one day to make re-rooming impossible and therefore to make it necessary for whole year groups to be sent home. We have come close to that point in the past few days.

It is important that, on the 30th November, the number of Y12 and 14 pupils at home either with covid-19 or as close contacts is at a minimum to ensure that as many Y12 and 14 pupils as possible can take their mock examinations. This means that **steps must be taken now** to reduce that number as close as possible to zero before the mock examinations begin.

Therefore I have decided that **all pupils in Years 12 and 14 should not come to School from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November inclusive and should work from home instead**, returning on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November to begin their mock examinations. Teachers will deliver remote learning and communicate with pupils via Google Classroom.

This step will:

- Avoid any spread of the virus in school amongst these Year Groups
- Avoid more pupils in these Year Groups having to self-isolate as school close contacts
- Enable teachers to focus on each class as a single group and deliver teaching support remotely in the same consistent way to all
- **Minimise the number of pupils unable to take mock examinations**

Pupils due to take scheduled external examinations and pupils in Year 12 due to take English Macbeth Controlled Assessments will be contacted by their teacher regarding arrangements.

**During the next two weeks (as at all times) it is vital that your daughter follows Public Health Authority guidance closely in order to minimise the chance of either contracting covid-19 or being identified as a close contact.**

I recognise that this is a significant step which will bring its own particular challenges, but it is necessary in order to ensure that the mock examinations proceed without significant disruption.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and cooperation.

Mr W E Thompson  
Headmaster



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