



Wednesday, 18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following conversations with the College senior leadership team and the Chair of Governors with regard to the ongoing Coronavirus situation and associated operational difficulties in school, I have decided that **we will partially close the College to students on Thursday and Friday of this week**. We will review this decision on Friday.

From tomorrow students in **years 8, 9 and 10** will not be expected to attend College. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly. Advice from the Government is that we should only close the school following advice from Public Health England in relation to a case or suspected case of Coronavirus. We are not aware of any cases of coronavirus with anyone associated with the College but due to exceptionally high numbers of staff self-isolating due to issues in their household, pregnancy, vulnerable close relatives, underlying health issues and so forth, we are unable to guarantee the safety of the students if all year groups attend. Indeed, it has been difficult having to send staff home who have underlying health issues who would prefer to be in the College supporting students.

To confirm, on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March:

College will be closed to students in Years 8, 9 and 10

Students will be able to access work through the website. No student's attendance record will be affected by this closure as his or her absence will be marked as an 'exceptional circumstance.'

Students in Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 should still attend as usual.

Year 11 and 13 are close to the completion of their courses and we are keen to keep them with us for as long as we can, despite the uncertainty about the examinations. The rationale in keeping Year 7s in school is based on the assumption that parents are more likely to have concerns about leaving these younger students at home whilst they continue to go out to work.

The children of parents who work in emergency services are welcome to still attend College regardless of which year group they are in.

We will make a supervised area available for students where they can work independently. I would ask that if this applies to you and you intend to send your child into school on Thursday and Friday, you email the College at **info@beck.uk.com** before the start of the College day on Thursday to let us know so that we are aware of which students to expect.

Students who are not in the College should stay at home. They should socially distance themselves from others outside their household. Please have this discussion with them. They must not be out with their friends. If any parents have any concerns please contact the College to speak to a member of staff.

Many thanks for your support.

Best wishes

Paul Dickinson