

Dear parents and carers,

Partial School Closures:- Tuesday 24th November – Tuesday 1st December 2020.

You are likely to be aware that we have seen increasing rates of students and staff requiring to self isolate following positive test results both within households and from contact within school.

We have been made aware that a member of staff has tested positive for covid-19 over the weekend. This has also led to the need for others to self-isolate. We have sent best wishes to the member of staff affected, and you will be pleased to learn that they are not currently experiencing significant symptoms.

Unfortunately, this means that our operational capacity is significantly reduced. We therefore have no alternative but to close certain bubbles on a scheduled programme over the next 6 school days.

I realise the inconvenience here and sincerely apologise for the need to take this decision – however these circumstances are beyond our control and I must ensure that as a school we are able to operate safely and effectively. I have of course consulted fully with our Health Protection team and Northamptonshire County Council.

Please see below for the dates of closure for the identified bubbles. We do not have a huge amount of flexibility here as the primary rationale is based on minimising the number of lessons which would be affected by self-isolations. However, we also need to ensure that year 11 and the Sixth form are able to complete their mock examinations and I am also aware that these year groups have faced the most disruption from self-isolations to date.

Date	Closure
Tuesday 24 th November	Year 9 only
Wednesday 25 th November	Year 7 and Year 9
Thursday 26 th November	Year 7 and Year 10
Friday 27 th November	Year 8 and Year 10
Monday 30 th November	Year 7 and Year 8
Tuesday 1 st December	Year 9 only

For students in closed bubbles, all lessons will take place, as per students original timetables using zoom. In the majority of cases, these will be fully interactive lessons, taught by the usual teacher (who may be teaching from home in self-isolation).

A link for each lesson will be posted in the Go4Schools homework App shortly before each lesson. This will allow students to access their learning from home during the period of school closure. Students should have exercise books with them in which to complete the relevant work.

Please do be assured that we have not taken this decision lightly and have battled in difficult circumstances to keep the school fully open for as long as possible.

We appreciate all of your support, and I am sorry again to have to make this decision. This was made with a heavy heart, but it is the correct course of action in the current circumstances to preserve the safe and effective running of our school. We have however, planned for such a contingency and I hope that the interactive lessons on Zoom prove as successful as they possibly can be.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Birkett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Mr James Birkett

Headteacher