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Tuesday 29 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write, further to my recent letters, to thank you again very much for your support this week. Despite the difficult circumstances that persist, having a year group at home receiving remote education has meant that we have been able to ensure operationally safe provision for our students on site.

Unfortunately, cases continue to be high, and due to the numbers of staff absent and isolating because of COVID-19, after liaison with all relevant agencies, I have sadly had to take the decision to close the College for our Y7 students on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March, and to provide them with remote learning instead. I was hopeful that this action would not have been necessary, but due to another increase this morning in the number of staff absent and isolating because of COVID-19, it regrettably remains to be operationally unsafe to be fully open for all year groups.

I am sincerely sorry for the relatively short notice, but hope you can appreciate why. Again, I understand that this may cause some inconvenience for parents and students, but I want to assure you that this course of action is an absolute last resort, and is unavoidable on the grounds of health and safety.

To confirm, the following plan will be in place:

- Y7 students stay at home Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- Y7 students will receive Remote Learning in the usual way via Class Charts.
- This Remote Learning will follow students' timetables.
- Y7 students will return to College on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- Students in all other year groups attend school as normal.

We are maintaining our enhanced control measures to mitigate the transmission of the virus on site, as outlined in my [letter of 20 March](#), and will monitor the ongoing situation carefully over the next two days — to evaluate when we can safely cease these restrictions. Once again, I am sincerely sorry that I have had to take this course of action, but I hope and trust that you understand why I have done so. I will contact you again to confirm arrangements moving forward.

With my warmest wishes,

Craig Griffiths (Principal).