

14th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

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

In the past few months we have enjoyed a more normal academy life; opening our doors to the community for parent's evenings, the Adwick's Got Talent Show, national theatre performance and as always students engaging in active learning and being praised by their teachers. I do hope you have been able to see some of these things on our social media outlets.

However, as we start this week we have seen a stark rise in the number of Covid-19 cases within our academy community for both students and staff. With over 30 staff absences today and a spike in student cases we have worked with the Trust, Public Health England and the local authority to review community transmission and our safe practice within the academy.

As was shared by Doncaster Public Health last week there has been an uplift in local Covid-19 cases, estimated at 1 in 30 people in Doncaster having Covid-19 last week. Whilst most people will have only moderate symptoms we have a duty to protect and keep safe those who are vulnerable within our community. The current government guidance states that until the end of this month people who are symptomatic for Covid-19 should take a lateral flow test and self-isolate before retesting on day 5 and 6. They can then return to their education setting after two negative tests 24 hours apart.

In the academy we will continue to promote and insist on good ventilation throughout the building, hand hygiene routines at the beginning of every lesson and that students adhere to a one-way-system to limit congestion and face to face contact. We value your support in sharing the importance of good hygiene and Covid safety from home and in the wider community.

Due to the current number of cases in the academy, in the interests of student and staff safety we have, in conjunction with Public Health England, had to make the decision to partially close the academy to two year groups; **Year 7 and Year 9 from Tuesday 15th March until and including Friday 18th March.** We will aim to return earlier if staffing improves sooner.

Whilst students are not in the academy building it is vital that teaching and learning continues so that they do not get left behind on their return next week. The paragraphs below detail how we will continue lessons through Google classrooms with personalised learning which will be overseen by your children's class teachers.

We're all extremely disappointed in having to take these measures as we never wish to close the academy to students, but hope that by acting immediately we can quickly reverse this spike and resume academy life as it should be, with all students in our classrooms.

Home Learning

We have a strong plan in place for home learning via Google Classroom. Over the course of the pandemic during partial closures and national lockdowns attendance and engagement has been exceptional and through live and interactive lessons with teachers students have continued to make excellent progress, preventing lost learning time. In the initial period of this closure we will provide learning resources through students' Google classrooms.

Students should be up and learning by 8:25am each morning. They should go to their Google Classroom and will then follow their normal timetable for the week by visiting the correct classrooms and the correct times. Students will have work posted in their classroom to complete. Pens and paper etc are essential and can be available for you to pick up at school if you need. In order for parents/carers to support their children at home, we have created a Home Learning webpage which provides you with guidance on how to access Google Classroom with your child. You can access this at <https://bit.ly/ADWICKOLP>.

All students have been shown how to access Google Classroom and we have checked that they have their login and password details. Students have been given a sticker with this information which will be in their planner. Should you need any support with Google Classroom or internet access then please contact our enquiries team by emailing Enquiries@adwick.outwood.com.

We have a limited number of loan IT devices available for those eligible for support.

Key worker and vulnerable children

We have added a form to the academy website for the parents of key workers and our most vulnerable children so that we can support them in providing critical care where it is required - and we hope to be able to support these students wherever we can. Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you require further information on who is entitled to this support.

Free School Meal Parcel

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 contacting the academy on the above number or by emailing Enquiries@adwick.outwood.com, if you would like to collect one of these.

Again, this has been an incredibly difficult decision for me, especially considering the previous time students have spent away from the academy. We have worked really

hard to try to remain open for all, but I cannot compromise the health or safety of our academy community and I hope you appreciate and understand the rationale around this decision.

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 'A Scruby', written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Andy Scruby
Principal