



Dear Parents/Carers

Closure of New College Leicester for Years 7, 8 and 9 from Monday 23rd March

In my letter yesterday, I explained that the staffing of the school was going to become more challenging. This unfortunately has become the case much quicker than any of us anticipated.

Now that the government has published a list of conditions which require social isolation, it has affected our staffing levels significantly. The government is expected, by the end of the week, to direct all “at risk” people to stay at home for a period of up to 12 weeks. At risk people include everyone over 70, pregnant women and anyone with a serious underlying health condition. This, on top of the guidance that people need to self-isolate for 14 days if anyone in the household is showing symptoms of a raised temperature and/or a new continuous cough, has made staffing the school as from next Monday extremely challenging.

A number of staff have now declared that they are, or will be, self-isolating due to this new guidance, and while we have been endeavouring to remain open, in line with government wishes, this has now become much harder.

Therefore, as a result of significant staff shortages, I am announcing that as from Monday 23rd March, New College Leicester will be closed to students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The college will remain open and run as normal for students in Year 10, Year 11 and Post 16.

Although I will review the staffing situation continuously, I think it is possible that the college will have to remain closed to Years 7, 8 and 9 until the Easter holidays which are due to start in 2 weeks’ time.

I am very aware that closing a school to any year group has significant implications for parents/carers, as well as students, and would hope that you will understand that this has been an unavoidable decision.

We are also aware that the closure of school to Years 7, 8 and 9 means that our students who rely on free school meals will be without a school lunch so we will be providing vouchers to be redeemed at the local stores in order to support these students. Information about how to collect the voucher will be communicated separately to those families who are affected.

Teachers have and will be setting work for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Work packs will be issued to students on Friday of this week and work will also be emailed out to all students, on their school

email address, on a daily/weekly basis by the departments. Teachers will be available by email to support students where necessary. If your child does not receive the work pack, please contact their Head of Year and arrange to collect the work from the college. Please also refer to the list of academic websites which were listed on yesterday's letter which can also support your child.

We are very grateful for the kindness and support so many parents/carers have shown over the last few days. I recognise that as we move into a more difficult situation many parents will agree with our decisions while others may not, and that is absolutely fine. Please be reassured that our staff are trying to do the right thing for our community, discharging their duties as public servants at times, to the detriment of themselves and their families.

We hope that you and your families remain safe during this uncertain time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Brown', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Brown
Principal