

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday we have seen a significant increase in staff and students who are now self-isolating. Up until now, St Andrew's has been able to accommodate all year groups, however, this situation will change from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

We have taken the decision to ask **Year 9 students to remain at home from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March (inclusive).**

This afternoon, Year 9 students were informed of the reasons why we have had to make this decision, and ensure that they are aware of the steps the school is taking to provide a remote education through ShowMyHomework as outlined in my letters to all parents dated 11<sup>th</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> March. All students should also have a reading book and we strongly encourage the boys to complete work set and spend an hour a day reading. Any student who does not have access to a computer will have been provided a pack at the end of the school day with 2 weeks' worth of work inside.

**Year 9 will be asked to remain off until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March in the first instance;** this information will be updated should the current situation change and we receive further guidance from the government or should staff be able to return to work sooner.

In line with Government recommendations, Year 9 students should be based at home during school hours.

**All other year groups will remain in school as normal until further notice. We will communicate information with you as any changes arise.**

Our priorities as a school remain the safeguarding and welfare of our students, staff and community. We appreciate that this decision will cause some challenges and anxieties, but I hope you will be able to appreciate that we are negotiating uncharted waters. It is worth noting that the UK Government's Education Secretary is due to make a statement in the House of Commons at 17:00 today, we will, no doubt, be responding to fresh information following this.

Thank you for your support,



**Louise Welcome**  
Headteacher