

13th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Partial School Closure: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The health, safety and welfare of our students, staff, families and the community are at the forefront of the decisions we make as a school. In light of the current health emergency, it is with regret that Outwood Academy Hemsworth have had to make the decision to carry out a partial closure for a year group. At this moment in time, exceptional levels of staff absence means that we cannot safely accommodate all students in the academy. **We have therefore made the difficult decision to close to Year 9 (previous Y8 students before the timetable rolled over on the 28th June) from Wednesday 14th July until Monday 19th July, returning on Tuesday 20th July.** This position will be reviewed regularly and I can reassure you that, in the event of further staff absence at this worrying time, we will prioritise sending home other year groups to limit any potential lost learning for Year 9 as much as possible.

Home Learning

We have previously communicated with you to explain what the process will be for setting work for students during the enforced closure. Therefore, whilst at home, Google Classroom is the means by which teachers will set work for their classes. In order for parents/carers to support their children at home, we have created a [Home Learning webpage](http://homelearning.outwood.com) (homelearning.outwood.com) which provides you with guidance on how to access Google Classroom with your child.

Lessons will be available for all subjects and the timings of each lesson will follow the school day. For each lesson there will be, wherever possible, a video recording for your child to watch to help them with the work which is being set. The independent work which they will then complete at home should then be submitted to their usual teacher via Google Classroom. If your child is unable to log into Google Classroom (for example, if they have forgotten their password) please contact Gary Ives: g.ives@hemsworth.outwood.com. For those students who we have already identified as not being able to access Google Classroom at home, the academy will be in contact with you directly.

This is a suggested timetable for Year 9 which you may want your child to follow. As lessons are recorded, this offers flexibility when your child can access their lessons.

	Period 1 8.45 – 9.45	Period 2 9.45 – 10.45	Period 3 11.00 – 12.00	Period 4 12.30 – 1.30	Period 5 1.30 – 2.30
Wednesday 14 th July	Work is available on your child's year group Google Classroom.				
Thursday 15 th July	Maths	Geography	English	Science	Option A Subjects: Art Drama Music Sport Usual lesson is Wednesday P5
Friday 16 th July	Spanish, French or Literacy	Maths	English	PE	Life
Monday 19 th July	English	Science	Maths	History	Life

Further work is also available to all students via

- Hegarty Maths
- Oak National Academy
- BBC Bitesize
- <https://science.outwood.com/>
- <https://sites.google.com/outwood.com/maths/home>

For students in receipt of free school meals, if you would like a lunch hamper prepared for the week please contact Sue Vaughan (Catering Manager) at s.vaughan@hemsworth.outwood.com or ring the academy on 01977 624220.

If you are a classed as a key worker or your child meets the vulnerable children definition according to the government list (both identified in the link below) and you are unable to make alternative arrangements for your child, please send your child to school as normal and ask them to report to a member of staff at the gate:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As I'm sure you will understand, the decision to close the academy to even one year group is something which I have not done lightly. Thank you for your understanding and support during these difficult and unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully



Toby Rutter
Principal