

Re: COVID-19 Update – Partial Closure

As you will have seen from government announcements late afternoon yesterday, this is a very fast-moving national picture.

If anyone in your household is displaying the following symptoms then everyone in the household needs to self-isolate for 14 days:

**New, continuous cough
OR
High temperature (37.8C or higher)**

Similarly, those in at risk groups as detailed [here](#) should also self-isolate. If your child has asthma, please keep them at home.

We know this is an anxious time but the government reports that the majority of those who catch the virus will demonstrate mild symptoms, in particular, the young.

Whilst the government insists schools try to remain open, our priorities at this time are to ensure the school community remains safe and we continue to provide education. We have increasing numbers of staff who are now not able to come into school as a precaution following the latest announcements. Regrettably, this means we can no longer open for all year groups.

- **From Wednesday 18th March 2020, we will only be open for Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 students.** We have prioritised these year groups to support our exam students and to support families who may otherwise need to make childcare arrangements. We keep this situation under constant review.
- **Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 should stay at home.**
- Please be patient as we move to this new remote learning format – it may take us some time to refine how go about setting it. Please also be mindful that at some point specific staff may not be well-enough to set work but will do so again once they feel able to.
- For families eligible for **Free School Meals**, we will be contacting you separately to support you during term time.
- Currently, OFQUAL have said there will be no changes to the **exam timetable** so students must continue to plan to sit the exams as published.

We will continue to update you at regular intervals following the guidance issued by the government and will review our capacity to accommodate different year groups.

We thank you, once again for your patience and understanding as we steer the schools through these uncharted waters.

With kind regards,

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CEO, Hasmonean MAT

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