

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 – Partial School Closure

I am writing to inform you that **Furze Platt Senior School will close to students in Years 8 and 9 from Wednesday 18 March** until advised otherwise.

The reason for the closure is that we do not have sufficient staff to safely educate our students. Today we have approaching 20% of our teaching staff self-isolating and numerous support staff not in school. We also have a sizeable number of our students self-isolating (although I should emphasise that no one has tested positive for COVID-19). This means that we have been unable to cover lessons individually and had to group students in order to supervise them, something that is clearly not satisfactory in the current climate.

I expect additional staff to self-isolate by tomorrow and therefore have had to take the decision to close the school for Years 8 and 9. I trust that parents and carers understand the reasons behind the decision. As stated in my letter yesterday (16th March) we will set work for students using Show My Homework.

We will continue to review the situation and, if things stabilise, look to change the year groups not in school. However, you will appreciate our immediate priorities will be those students who are due to sit examinations this summer.

Finally, if you are a key worker with a child in Years 8 or 9 and would like your child to still attend school while you are working I would like to extend an offer to still have them in school. Please email keyworker@furzeplatt.net and let us know to expect your child. They should come to the library in the morning.

I apologise for the inconvenience that this partial school closure causes but hope that you can understand the reasons behind my decision.

I wish you and your families all the best at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Morrison
Headteacher (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)