



19th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

On Wednesday 18th March, it was announced by the Secretary of State for education that schools are to close tomorrow Friday 20th March because of the coronavirus and there is currently no date set to reopen schools.

At this time, we have had no confirmed cases within college. We must, however, follow advice and guidance given to us by the government. This means that students and staff who have a new persistent cough or temperature, or live in a house where someone is displaying these symptoms, must self-isolate for a period of 14 days.

As you will be aware, this is a rapidly changing situation and with the increasing numbers of students and staff who are self-isolating it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain our teaching commitments for all classes. It is with great regret that I have made the very difficult decision to suspend the timetable not only for our Year 9 students, but also Years 10 & 11. **On Friday 20th March the usual timetable will remain in place for students in Years 7 & 8 only.**

From Thursday 19th March, we ask that students in Years 9, 10 & 11 remain at home and access their work via the internet through 'Google Classroom' and other online platforms. For Years 10 & 11 students have already been provided with sufficient resources for the first two weeks of the closure. If students are unable to access the internet, please contact the College and we will ensure regular work is made available through alternative means. Guidance on accessing these resources will be made available to all students. Please encourage your child to access these materials so that they do not fall behind with their studies. In addition, your child can contact their teachers by email if they need help. We would ask that, where possible, students email their teachers at the time that they would normally be having that particular lesson. Staff will respond to any queries as soon as they can and within 24 hours.

Students in Years 9, 10 & 11 who are entitled to Free School Meals may, by prior arrangement, collect a packed lunch from the College reception area between 12.30pm and 1.00pm. If you would like the Catering staff to prepare a packed lunch for your child, you must contact reception by phone or email (info@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk) by 9.30am that day. This does not apply to students who are self-isolating.

At this time, we are still awaiting further clarification following the Prime Minister's announcement regarding support and provision for the children of key workers and our most vulnerable students. As soon as this information becomes available, I will outline our response.

These are very difficult and unprecedented times for all of us and we will be here to support you, your children and the wider community. Please stay in touch via our website and social media platforms which will be updated regularly.

Thank you for your ongoing support in the education of our young people.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Rule', is written below the text 'Yours faithfully'.

Mr G Rule
Headteacher