



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Newsletter (12) – 19th October 2020

URGENT Important Announcement School Closure

We have been notified of more cases of Covid-19 this evening. Whilst we are being asked to deal with each case individually, the impact of the cases is that we have very high levels of staff absence. Therefore, I have reluctantly taken the decision that we need to close the school for this term to all years with immediate effect. I have spoken with Oxfordshire County Council and with Governors and they fully support this decision. This is not something that I have done lightly, but I believe that it is the right thing to do for everyone's safety.

I also would like parents and students of the 6th form to know that we have had additional cases identified in the 6th Form today. As a precaution, we feel that it is sensible that students also do not attend lessons at Henry Box School and Abingdon and Witney College just for this week. We hope that, with the half term break, cases will settle and we can resume fully after the break. We have already spoken individually this evening with every student and family who have had contact with these cases.

In the morning, teachers will set work for students to do at home. This will be posted on Insight. We will then bring forward our training on Microsoft Teams and we will be in touch to tell you more about how this will work. We hope to trial more lessons this week now. If any student has an external exam, this will continue as usual. Also, if any student has a concern about disruption to any event this week, they should contact Mr Armstrong or the relevant teacher.

I am sorry to tell you this late in the evening but the additional cases only were known about this evening. I thought parents would prefer to know tonight rather than having to close in the morning.

I will be in touch tomorrow with updates. Thank you for your continuing support and I know you will realise that we are doing this in the interests of safety of students, staff and families.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Shadbolt,
Headteacher