



HIGHWORTH WARNEFORD SCHOOL

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Home Learning

Dear Parents/Carers,

Even if you don't have a child in Years 8 or 9, you will probably have gathered that we have recently had to ask cohorts of youngsters to move to home learning on certain days. Although not top of the news agenda for obvious reasons, you will have seen that COVID levels are close to all-time highs and this has inevitably had an impact. We have had up to 20% of our teachers absent and found it impossible to secure enough supply teachers – unsurprising as every other local school is in a similar position.

I would like to point out that absent colleagues are genuinely unwell and taking sensible precautions. These are not asymptomatic cases, as regular testing no longer applies.

So far, we have managed the situation on an ad hoc basis, giving notice the evening before that students will move to home learning. We felt that this was the best approach, as we desperately want to stay open for **all** students to attend and only made the decisions as a last resort. However, looking ahead, it is possible that we may need to do something similar over the next few days, so I thought it would be best to have some draft plans and share them with you.

So far, the choice of year groups has been based on what activities are running on each day and also recognition of students taking exams and the difficulty of supervision for our very youngest students – hence the focus on Year 8 and Year 9 so far.

Looking at the rest of the week, if we do need to continue with home learning, we would extend this as follows:

- **Tuesday 29/3** Year 9
- **Wednesday 30/3** Year 7 (to give time to plan for supervision)
- **Thursday 31/3** Year 10 (post mock-exams)
- **Friday 1/4** Year 8

This will hopefully give a little bit more certainty in making any necessary arrangements.

However, please assume that the school will be fully open unless you get a message to the contrary the evening before.

Cont...

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As has always been the case, if it is not possible to accommodate your child at home, they can still attend and will be supervised to complete the same home learning as their peers. On that note, it is vital that all home learning is completed – it is not optional work.

I know this is less than ideal but we are trying to ensure continuity of education in challenging circumstances and appreciate your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Andy Steele
Headteacher