



18th March 2020

Dear parent / carer,

As you can well imagine, this week has been a challenge for all concerned at Woodham. The unique circumstances that we all face have seen this community rise to the challenge in the face of adversity. I simply can't praise the students, staff and parents enough for their hard work, support and common sense. Our cleaners, kitchen staff, site team, pastoral teams, office staff and teachers have all been focussed on the safety, health and continued education of your children. I am a particularly proud headteacher at this point.

You may well begin to see details of partial school closures around the county from today. Indeed, I am aware that one secondary school has already announced full closure. This is purely down to their staff to student ratio, with many staff having to self-isolate. Currently, Woodham Academy **are not** in this position and will continue to operate in line with Department for Education guidelines. Each morning, we review the staffing numbers to ensure that children can be educated safely in this building. If partial closure needed to happen (and I reiterate that this will be a last resort), we would prioritise the year 11 students, as discussed in a previous update, then produce a plan for the other year groups.

Today's updates are outlined below, but can I just re-emphasise that the staff at Woodham Academy are doing everything they can to keep the school running as 'normal' as possible. The office staff are receiving a high level of calls, so please be patient if calling.

Updates as follows:

1. The year 9 English trip to see Macbeth has been postponed until October. Further information to follow nearer the time.

<https://tynetheatreandoperahouse.uk/events/theatre-creative-presents-macbeth/>

2. The Performing Arts Academy trip to London has been cancelled.
3. We have set up a specific email account for students to use if they need to speak to a member of staff in the event of a school closure. This is very much to do with safeguarding, well-being and mental health. Normally, students would access our Student Support area where their concern would be handled accordingly. However, it is important that they can still get the help that they need.

E-mail: helpline@woodham.org.uk

Cont...

Registered Office Address: Woodham Academy, Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4AX
Tel: 01325 300 328 / Fax: 01325 301 950 / E-Mail: info@woodham.org.uk / Web: www.woodham.org.uk



Any student who has been sent home as a consequence of showing Coronavirus symptoms will not be permitted to return to school within the 14-day period. These students received the appropriate absence code for self-isolation, which has been pre-populated on our registers for the 14 days. Please understand that this is for the health and safety of everyone at Woodham Academy. Students who do arrive at school during a self-isolation period, will be isolated from other students and parents / carers will be told to collect them **immediately**.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Bell
Headteacher

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