

Dear Parents and Carers

It is with huge regret that we find our self in the position that we did not want to be in: that of having to **partially close** the College.

Please note: Schools in Scotland or Wales are closing from Friday so, following the government's daily briefing, the information below may change.

We have now reached critical mass in terms of the number of staff who are absent. We would like to emphasise that the majority of these find themselves in the position of having to self-isolate, following the government advice. We have no confirmed cases of Coronavirus.

Therefore, the arrangements from Thursday 19 March will be as follows:

Years 8, 9, 10 and 12

- The College will close to students in these year groups on Thursday and Friday.
- Where possible, students should self-study, completing coursework, revision and private reading.
- Should this closure extend beyond the end of this week, work will be provided from Monday and the arrangements for this will be shared with you in due course.

Exceptions:

There are two exceptions to the closure for these year groups:

- Our **Year 10** students have spent time preparing for their **BTEC Sport** exam and there is a group who have an exam on Friday and so it is important that this goes ahead.
These students should arrive at the College at 10.30am ready for this examination and report to the Learning Resource Centre.
Students will be dismissed at 12.15pm approximately once this examination finishes.
- Should you be an **essential worker** (working for the **NHS or the Police Force**) and you are unable to arrange child care, we will be happy to

accommodate your child in College. They will be supervised undertaking private study in our Learning Resource Centre.

In order to ensure safeguarding is in place, should you be an essential worker and wish to send your child to College, we ask that you email mail@latimer.org.uk so that we know to expect them.

Years 7, 11 and 13:

Students in these year groups should attend College. Our reasons for this are:

- For our Year 7 students, as they are younger, we appreciate that you may not wish them to be at home on their own, should you be unable to arrange childcare.
- For our examination students, we want to continue to focus on examination preparation as much as we can.
- Please could all students in Year 7 bring their PE kit in tomorrow.

If you have students in these years that will not be coming into College for any reason, please call the absence line as normal.

Timings of the Day:

Due to staffing restrictions, we will need to amend the timings of the College day. **The school day will end at 2.30pm.** Those students who wish to wait for school buses will be able to do so. There will be no extra-curricular activities after school such as Aspire (Homework Club or revision).

We will continue to monitor the situation and the government guidance and update you with regards to next week on or before Friday. As you will appreciate, this is an ever changing situation and we do not want to issue plans too early that may then have to change. However, should the government guidance change, we will respond to this accordingly.

In the event of a full school closure on or before the end of the week, work will be provided for all of our students from Monday and the arrangements for this will be shared with you in due course.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards

Ms Hearne
Principal
The Latimer Arts College

