

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **School Closure Announcement**

As you will have heard, the Prime Minister announced yesterday evening that schools will close immediately as part of the measures put in place to control the spread of COVID-19. It has been reported that this will be in place until February half term. Should this change, we will inform you as soon as we are aware.

The school will still be open for students who are classed as vulnerable or children of critical workers. These students will continue to be grouped in bubbles and they will be expected to follow social distancing guidance so must attend the Academy with face masks, as these continue to be mandatory in communal areas. It is highly recommended that during these winter months students also bring a winter coat or jacket.

The Prime Minister also announced that “not all exams” would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He stated the Government would set out further details on this at a later date, and when that information is announced, we will update students and their parents and carers due to take exams this year. In the meantime it is essential that these students engage fully with their online learning via Google Classroom.

For students expecting to sit examinations in January, we are still expecting that these will go ahead as planned. Further details will follow for the appropriate parents and carers about how students will be supported with these examinations.

It is expected that all students not in school will access online learning. The timetable that was published for students, parents and carers yesterday was structured to allow for teaching of year groups in the Academy. This will now be altered to allow more lessons to be incorporated in the remote timetable for all year groups. We will endeavour to communicate this new plan to you by the end of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Until the new timetable is communicated, please continue to follow the timetable provided on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. All students should be familiar with how to navigate the Google Classroom forum effectively however please be reminded that there are support videos in the “Home Learning with Google Classroom” section on the frontpage of the website. If your child has forgotten their log in details then please contact the Academy via [enquiries@ripin.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@ripin.outwood.com)

We will continue to stay in touch with you throughout the remainder of this half term about your child's education. However, do please contact [enquiries@ripon.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@ripon.outwood.com) if you require any support relating to these new arrangements.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Pratt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William Pratt  
Principal