



18th March 2022

Year 7 & 8 group closure

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to inform you that, unfortunately, as a result of high levels of illness due to Covid-19, Harrogate High School are experiencing severe staff shortages and operational issues. This has exacerbated by reliability and availability of supply staff. There has also been a significant increase of coronavirus cases in student's especially in years 7 and 8 and therefore we have taken the difficult decision to **close to Year 7 and 8 students on Monday 21st March, Tuesday 22nd March and Wednesday 23rd March. School will remain open for all other year groups.**

Over the past week, a number of local schools have also had to make the difficult decision to proceed with year group closures. We have tried to refrain from doing this for as long as possible by collapsing classes, reintroducing face coverings within school and by relying on high numbers of cover teachers which is unfortunately causing disruptions to classes and unfortunately now this is not sustainable.

We have been advised by North Yorkshire Country Council staff of Harrogate High School should participate in a 7-day testing cycle starting from this evening (Friday 18th March) and finishing on Thursday 24th March, we will be asking staff to participate in this to try to prevent further spread of the virus within school.

Students in Year 7 and 8 should study at home on the above dates, logging in to Microsoft Teams on a device and looking in their subject Teams for work that will be provided by period 1 on Monday. This work will be saved in the 'Files' section of the Team. In addition, students should use BBC Bitesize, Seneca Learning ([Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 \(senecalearning.com\)](https://www.senecalearning.com)) and MathsWatch ([MathsWatch](https://www.mathswatch.com)) to complete revision and practice questions relating to the subjects they study, as appropriate.

Please emphasise to your child that the time they normally spend in school should be used productively and they should be doing around 5 hours of study per day. Teachers will expect students to have completed the work provided and will be discussing this on their return. We are not implementing live Teams lessons on this occasion, as several staff are currently ill.

Students should note that their Teams login is the same as their school email account login (username and password). If they have any trouble recalling this or logging in, they/you need to contact help@harrogethighschool.co.uk as soon as possible. If your child needs support with their MathsWatch or other logins, please contact school on admin@harrogatehighschool.co.uk or call the school directly.





Please note that Teams can be accessed on a smartphone/tablet as well as a computer and all students who last year expressed that they did not have a device were lent a laptop/Chromebook and will still have this at home. If your child does not have a device via which to access Teams, please contact school so we can support with lending a device if possible.

If your child cannot work from home and you are a critical worker, please let us know today so we can assess numbers that request to attend. You may be asked to provide written evidence from your employer showing that you are a critical worker. A full and current list of critical workers can be found on the government website: [Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/children-of-critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings). It is important to remember that this is a closure due to the high numbers of staff not being able to provide face to face lessons, therefore we would appreciate the support parents/carers can give to ensure year 7 and 8 students access learning from home for the three days.

Furthermore, if your child is eligible for FSM, packed lunches for the two days will be available for collection from Reception between 10am-12pm. If you require this, please contact TCloggie@harrogatehighschool.co.uk to confirm by 9am on Monday 21st March.

We are not anticipating that we will have to close to a year group on Thursday of next week, however, parents/carers should be mindful that this is a difficult situation to predict and therefore, be aware that there is a remote possibility that we may have to do so. **Please be aware that we will write to parents again with as much notice as possible if this is going to be the case. If you do not hear anything further, please ensure that you send your child to school as normal on Thursday 24th March.**

I apologise for the inconvenience and disruption that this may cause, however, it is a necessary measure to ensure effective supervision in school. I hope that we can return to normal routines by Thursday.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S. Gill
Head of Academy



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