17th March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers of Year 7, 11 & 13 Students

As you are aware, The John Roan School has remained fully open until this point and I would like to thank the staff, students, parents and carers for their unrelenting support and understanding at this unique and challenging time. Advice changes daily regarding coronavirus and we are ensuring the school keeps fully up to date with all the latest developments issued by Public Health England, The Department for Education and government officials.

Unfortunately, due to high staff absence I have made the difficult decision to close the school to students in Years 8, 9, 10 & 12 for the remainder of this week. This is regrettable, but my priority is the safety and well-being of all students on the school site and the sheer number of staff not able to attend school as they would normally, means this decision has been taken. However the school will be open to students in years 7, 11 & 13.

We are constantly reviewing the situation and looking to find the right balance between the health and safety of all at the school, as well as the need to provide as much continuity of learning as we can in this difficult circumstances. I am aware that we have some students who are now at home and following government guidance around self-isolation, but we also have many who are well and we are keen to teach them face to face for as long as is practicable.

The external exam season is already active and I know that there were A level practical exams today and that there are GCSE practical exams throughout the remainder of this week. As I write, we have no further updates from Ofqual about exams and are continuing to prepare our students fully for these important assessments. Should there be further information, I will share this with you.

Students were all spoken to last week through assemblies led by senior staff and so are aware of our expectations around home learning in the case of school closure. More details about the work students are expected to complete from home can be found on Show My Homework and we will continue to write to you with any updates around this.

Thank you for your continued support of The John Roan School and please do keep in touch with the school with any questions or issues you may have. We are very keen lines of communication are kept open and parents/carers can contact us whenever necessary.

Yours truly

Cath Smith
Executive Headteacher