



# Hazelwick School

An Academy

Headteacher: Ms A Fearon BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Chair of Governors: Mrs R Bowron

Dear Parent/Carer

In view of the increased national protective measures around Covid-19, I am writing to inform you of our approach to the potential difficulties we may face over the coming weeks should staff absence become unmanageably high.

In normal times we are able to manage our capacity to cover lessons successfully, even at this time of year, which traditionally sees higher rates of sickness absence. As we move further into the winter months and as a higher proportion of people are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, self-isolating or waiting for test results, the level of cover is likely to be much greater than usual. This will undoubtedly put a strain on our school systems and we may find that the amount of cover lessons required outweighs the number of staff we have available.

In the event of having an insufficient number of staff, we will have no choice other than to close the school to certain year groups. If this becomes necessary, students, parents and carers would be informed on the previous day before 4.00pm and it would be likely that the year group would remain off for the remainder of that week.

Teachers and associate staff at Hazelwick are working relentlessly to ensure that our students receive the very best education possible. If partial closure becomes necessary, we will contact you with further information, including the arrangements for providing work for students to complete at home.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the national guidance that secondary school students should continue to test twice weekly at home, with a lateral flow device test kit, 3-4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary, but is encouraged by the Department for Education.

The next two weeks are likely to be challenging and our capacity is likely to be stretched. As we navigate these uncertain waters, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Ms A Fearon  
Headteacher