



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

Thursday 26th November 2020

Dear Families,

**RE: Partial School Closure:
School Closed to Learners in Year 9 Tomorrow (Friday 27th November 2020)**

As you will be aware since September 2020 Rayner Stephens High School, as all schools nationally, has been carefully managing confirmed cases of coronavirus within our school setting. Thus far, this has had a limited impact on the school as a whole with only a very small number of learners and staff having to self-isolate as a result of confirmed cases.

Unfortunately, recent confirmed cases have heavily affected staffing capacity at Rayner Stephens High School, with a significant number of staff identified by Track and Trace as close contacts of confirmed cases, both inside and outside the setting, and having to self-isolate as a precautionary measure. The number of staff currently self-isolating at home has reached the point that we cannot continue to safely open to all year groups tomorrow. Consequently, I have taken the difficult decision to **close to all learners in Year 9 tomorrow (Friday 27th November).**

Please note, this closure is due to staffing capacity and not individual learner's contact with any confirmed cases of coronavirus. This is a school closure for these learners, not a period of self-isolation

Learners in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 should attend school as normal tomorrow. Learners who are self-isolating due to the coronavirus should continue to self-isolate as per our earlier guidance.

We are expecting a number of the staff to return on Monday which means that **the partial closure to Year 9 will only be for one day and Year 9 learners will return to school on Monday.**

The issues impacting on secondary schools due to Covid-19 change daily, we will be monitoring the situation closely over the weekend. If we are not able to open to all year groups on Monday we would select a different year group so that the impact is equally shared across Years 7-10. In this eventuality, I will write to all families again.

No Head Teacher ever wants to have to close their school and I can assure families that this decision has not been taken lightly. Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Fay Beach

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

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