



## RESILIENCE • RESPECT • INTEGRITY • COMMUNITY

The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, CM5 0AN

Tel: 01277 500990

Email: [admin@theongaracademy.org](mailto:admin@theongaracademy.org) • Website: [www.theongaracademy.org](http://www.theongaracademy.org)

Director of Education for Ongar & Headteacher: Mr. A. Osborne

First Deputy Headteacher: Ms. E. Ruffles

Second Deputy Headteacher: Mr. C. Abrey

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Partial School Closure

Whilst we have been trying to reduce the impact of Coronavirus on our staffing and our school, following the most up to date guidance from the Department for Education, as a result of staff members, catering staff and site team having to self-isolate, we have reluctantly reached the conclusion that we can no longer safely keep the school open to all students. This won't be a shock to you as I have been communicating with you daily but after the announcement yesterday from the Government absence took a dramatic turn for the worse with good reason.

As a result, tomorrow; Thursday and Friday we ask that years 7-10 stay at home, with **only year 11** remaining in school. I will communicate tomorrow with further plans for the next two weeks.

Students remaining at home will be set tasks appropriate for their age and ability, distributed, via MILK, as we outlined in Mr Abrey's letter which can be found on the school website.

Please encourage your son/daughter to continue make an effort with their studies, whether at home or in school. The more of a routine that can be established or maintained, the less unsettling the current situation will be for all.

For anyone who this causes an immediate concern for, please contact the school via email [head@theongaracademy.org](mailto:head@theongaracademy.org). I am devastated that I have to take this action but I have no other option. However, for tomorrow only, we will have a room that students can work from if you have childcare issues so please do email this address.

We appreciate that this is a challenging and stressful time for everyone. I am very aware of the impact that this will have on our families, so please be assured, this is not a decision that has been taken lightly.

**Year 11 – please can you bring a packed lunch in and students that are entitled to a Free School Meal will be provided with a cold lunch.**

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support during this trying time. I feel totally supported by you and your loyalty to our school has been unwavering.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. A. Osborne

Executive Headteacher & Director of Education for Ongar

