



# Holly Lodge High School

College of Science

Holly Lane  
Smethwick  
West Midlands  
B67 7JG

Tel: 0121 558 0691

Fax: 0121 558 6136

Email: [info@holly-lodge.org](mailto:info@holly-lodge.org)

Website: [www.holly-lodge.org](http://www.holly-lodge.org)

Headteacher: Mr Paul Shone BA (Hons) MA

PSH/14 day school closure letter September 2020

21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

In writing I do so to assure you that the decision to close the school from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 for 14 days was not taken lightly but as always based on the care for student and staff safety alongside following guidance. I understand that some on social media and press have pointed to an overreaction but I can assure you this was not the case. We have been in contact with parents to advise those who needed to self-isolate due to any possible contact within school. To a great extent this is precautionary but I believe it to be important that all guidelines are followed.

I understand that there has been additional disruption to learning but this has been unavoidable. A school online home learning timetable for each year group has been put in place (details are on our school's website) and we have tried to extend some IT access, where possible, to students without provision at home. In addition the school has provided additional support to families entitled to free school meals. This is limited as there is no Government or Local Authority support at this time. The result is, this may well be a one off payment but as a school we are pushing for the situation to be recognised at an Authority and National level.

The school has robust procedures in place and opened on our first day with all students and staff wearing face coverings, ahead of any local guidance that is now in place. The school is being deep cleaned and we will re-open on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**. Parents should feel confident sending their children into school as you can clearly see that we act in the interest of safety to all within school. For a safe return to school on the 28<sup>th</sup> September please can I refer you to the 'Return to school letter September 2020' in the 'Letters to Parents' section of our website.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank our students for the excellent start they made as we opened in September, they all wore their face coverings and were very mature with their approach to operating in 'Bubbles' and zones throughout the day, including all breaks and lunchtimes. I would also like to thank parents/carers for your understanding and support.

I would ask for parents not to gather by the entrances to school, as we re-open and let students walk to you, in order to prevent gathering of individuals at the gates especially given the present situation and restrictions in place.

I also need to thank my staff for their constant hard work and dedication in supporting students at this time. Many of you will have had contact from staff offering support as well as seeing the additional online support being provided.

As always the school aims to support our students and families and hope that as a community we can support each other through these unusual times. Please keep your eye on our website for further updates.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Shone  
Headteacher