20th March 2020

Dear Parent Carers

Thank you for your unwavering support and understanding to our College and staff during these uncertain times. The contents of this letter have been very difficult for me to write, as I am aware of the implications of our actions for you and your family. The letter has been drafted and agreed with the full support of Worcestershire Children First (WCF).

All students at Chadsgrove College are on the Government’s list as having chronic underlying conditions that in turn make them extremely vulnerable. Many of our students have more than one of these underlying conditions, which makes them additionally at risk.

A high percentage of students have individual medical interventions that can only be carried out by named and trained members of staff and we cannot guarantee that these staff will be available to support the students in College. In addition, many students also require highly trained staff to support them with eating and drinking as they are at risk of choking if they are fed by staff who do not have the relevant training. Our students also require very high levels of intimate care and physical support; therefore, ‘social distancing’ is not possible in our setting. All of the above pose a significant risk to their safety.

The NHS have advised that special school nursing and therapies are being increasingly affected by the pandemic, which in turn will significantly impact on our College and the health and safety of our students. When students are in our College, there is a very high risk of cross contamination. Some of our students explore resources with their hands and mouth and cannot manage their own personal care, for example blowing their own nose or managing their coughs and sneezes.

We are extremely aware and considerate of your needs as a family; however, we cannot ensure that students will be safe whilst they are on our premises at this current time. As a result of this, we are reluctantly taking the decision to close our College for the foreseeable future. This decision has been discussed with WCF who are in agreement with the actions we are taking.

In view of the above, we have many support systems and mechanisms in place to help you and we will be sharing these with you over the coming days. If you are concerned about meeting the needs of your son/daughter at home, please let us know so that we can consider how we can best support you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to, either by email or the mobile numbers you were given earlier this week. Staff who are fit and well will be able to help you. Please accept my sincere apologies for any disruption caused by the action we have taken, however, I am sure you will agree that the health and safety of our pupils is paramount at all times.

Yours sincerely



Deb Rattley

Head Teacher