



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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22nd March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Due to staff shortages I have taken the difficult decision to close the school to **Year 9 only** on Thursday 24th March. **The Year 9 trip to Harry Potter Warner Bros will go ahead as planned but all Year 9 pupils not on the trip should stay at home that day.** Teachers will set work on Google Classroom for pupils to complete that day and pupils should follow their usual timetable. Pupils should take any books home on Wednesday that they may need for work on Thursday. Staff will try to be available 'live' in Google Classroom where they can, but due to staff illness this is not always going to be possible. If your child does not have access to appropriate ICT at home please notify the school and we will issue a chromebook for them to use and bring back the following day.

For families of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals a voucher will be issued that can be redeemed locally. We will be contacting families of individual vulnerable pupils separately where we feel that it would benefit them to be in school. Please note that this is not something we can offer to all as we simply cannot staff it.

We have worked incredibly hard over the last two years to avoid closing to pupils and this is not a decision I have taken lightly. However, we are experiencing unprecedented levels of staff absence and have exhausted all other options. I appreciate that this is relatively short notice but the pressure on our staffing has grown significantly in the last 24 hours.

A reminder that those pupils who are going on the Warner Bros Trip on Wednesday or Thursday should meet in the school Canteen at 8.15 am on the day of their visit.

Your support and understanding is very much appreciated and I will aim to avoid disrupting Year 9 lessons again should further closures be necessary. This arrangement only affects Thursday 24th March and other year groups are in school as normal.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016

