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Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to update you on the situation in relation to our school closure. As I write Newham Pest Control is beginning the work for a thorough fumigation of the entire school.

At Rokeby, we take the education and the safety of our students very seriously, and I was very reluctant to close the school. You may have heard that some other schools have stayed open, even some which have found spiders of the same type; the key factor in our decision to close was that Pest Control found significant numbers of the spiders and their eggs in a number of locations around the school site, both outside and inside the building.

Today I have been informed that we may be able to re-open the school before the half term holiday, possibly as early as **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October**. Please keep looking at the website for updates.

In these unforeseen circumstances, we are very grateful to Newham Collegiate (NCS), which has offered the use of their facilities. We have been able to schedule use of classrooms at Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre for all our Year 11s from Monday onwards (meeting at Newham Collegiate, 326 Barking Road, E6 2BB, at 1.20pm). Please check our website for the most up to date information.

We are of course also setting work for all students to complete during the school closure and full information on this is available on our website via ShowMyHomework. Please ensure your child accesses this and that they are studying at home (or in some of the borough's excellent libraries) every day of the closure.

As I stated in earlier updates, this has been a very difficult decision to take, and I fully appreciate the difficulty for some families of an unplanned closure. We have however taken the decision after extensive consultation with the experts; unfortunately the extent of the infestation makes it necessary to deal with it as thoroughly and quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Robinson

Headteacher

