

8th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Covid Cases Update – Remote Learning for Year 9 and additional measures for all year groups

Following my previous correspondence, I wanted to share with you information around positive cases at the Academy. From the beginning of the pandemic we have always taken a cautious and measured approach to implementing all measures associated with reducing risk of transmission of Covid-19. We are constantly attempting to strike a balance between implementing approaches to reduce risk and the impact some measures may have on the quality of education for your children. Despite the introduction of increased measures nationally, there is no intention, currently, for us to close early.

However, whilst it appears that new cases amongst students is decreasing, the number of staff who have contracted Covid, has increased. Consequently, we need to consider further measures to ensure that operational safety, pastoral care and quality of education can be delivered with reduced staff numbers.

I would like to reassure you that we have contacted every supply agency within the area and they have no additional staff available. This has created a significant demand on remaining staff that simply cannot be sustained.

Therefore, I am writing to inform you that we have taken the reluctant decision to ask **Year 9 students to remain at home tomorrow (Thursday 9 December) and Friday 10 December**. The rationale for asking Year 9 students to remain at home is that this will create the greatest relief for staff to ensure they can cover our operational safety duties as well as parents/carers being more likely to be able to make arrangements with Year 9 aged students.

Therefore, Year 9 will have work set for them on Show My Homework. All parents/carers and students can access Show My Homework via the Academy website. Please click on the blue login tab on the right-hand side of the home page. Click on Homework at the bottom, you will be taken to the Show My Homework Access page. From here you can enter your login, then select your child's year group, the subject you wish to look at, and/or your child's teacher, and locate homework/work set and the expected completion date.

Additional mitigations for ALL YEAR GROUPS

- All ACE clubs and Additional Learning will be cancelled until the end of term
- We **strongly recommend** that students wear masks in their classes from now on. As previously mentioned, in some classes face coverings **may be required**. For instance, during some in-class activities, when students are needing to move around and work in groups, as they would during a science experiment
- Please be aware that visitors to Reception **MUST** make an appointment until further notice.

We continue to monitor the number of positive cases of Coronavirus within our student community and will keep you informed if they begin to rise. **A further letter will be sent to Year 9 parents with additional information**. As ever thank you for your continued support in helping to make our Academy as safe a place as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Avoth
Principal

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

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