

15 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that due to increasing staff absence due to Covid related reasons, and being unable to source supply staff, we are having to put into place some significant last resort action regarding provision, as mentioned in the newsletter last Friday.

For this current 'pinch point' the safest action for the Academy community is to reduce numbers in school. To ensure equity across all year groups, whilst trying to protect those with public examinations, the following year groups will be asked to remain at home as follows: -

- Wednesday 16 March 2022 and Thursday 17 March 2022 – Years 8 & 9
- Friday 18 March 2022 and Monday 21 March 2022 - Years 7 & 10

Students will be asked to study from knowledge organisers pre-set in TEAMS (i.e. not live lessons). Tasks will be posted in TEAMS by tomorrow morning.

Please be assured this is a last resort but with over 25% of staff out I have no other choice.

We will be reviewing the situation daily and will be in touch nearer the time regarding plans for the remainder of next week.

We continue to mitigate against the spread of Covid 19 by: -

- Regular hand sanitizing
- Thorough cleaning of all areas
- Ventilated rooms with windows open and doors where possible
- Continuing to follow the government guidance regarding self-isolation
- Optional use of face coverings

We continue to advise Open Academy staff and students testing positive to stay at home for at least five full days and to follow guidance until they have received two negative tests on consecutive days.

Please be patient with us if during this time, communication is not to our usual prompt standard; colleagues may be absent or working on behalf of other colleagues. I continue to value the support that we receive from parents, and I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to you all and apologies for the upheaval this is bound to cause.

Kind regards

Mr Ford
Principal