

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

You will have seen nationwide reports of staffing issues in schools in the news which have resulted in some part and full closures to year groups. For the last couple of weeks, we have been running a skeleton staff across certain parts of school and outsourcing supply staff to keep us fully open. The current staffing issues here and with supply agencies are now forcing us to make the difficult decision to move Year 8 teaching from face to face in school, to remote learning from home from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December until the end of term, on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. We can only apologise for the inconvenience that this causes our students and families.

Ensuring that our year 8 students receive quality education while working remotely is our priority and so we have prepared online materials that can be accessed via Microsoft Teams for the lessons on your child's timetable and paper resources for the core (English and Maths) and EBacc subjects (History, Geography and MFL). We expect students to be up and ready to learn for the start of lesson 1, at 8:45am. Where possible, your child's class teacher will be online at the time of the timetabled lesson and be available to answer any questions on the work set via MTeams or email. Where your child's teacher is not present, a teacher from the curriculum area, English department for example, will be available to answer any questions. The work set via MTeams as assignments should be completed and submitted before the end of the lesson. MTeams can be accessed through any electronic device, laptop, tablet or mobile phone. For whatever reason, your son/daughter cannot access the MTeams assignments they should work through the paper resources during the timings of the school day and upload or send a photograph of the work completed to their class teacher or Head of Department.

A register of student's attendance to lessons will be taken based on the submission of work for each lesson. This will be monitored by the Advisory Tutors, Head of Year and Attendance Team at the academy. We will be in contact with any student who does not engage with the work to offer support if needed.

You may be wondering why Year 8 has been selected as the year group to learn remotely over the next 4 days. The decision was based on Year 10 and Year 11 being examination years. Year 11 students have external examinations in January and Year 10 begin their mid-year assessments as soon as we return in January. Additionally, Year 9 are at a crucial stage of their education as they are in the process of selecting their options. This process has to be completed in a timely manner so that curriculum planning can take place in the New Year. We hope you appreciate our rationale for selecting this year group.

There will be some students in Year 8 that we will continue to offer on-site provision for and these will be those with an EHCP or Social Care involvement. Mrs Leftwick will be in contact with these families. These students will work through the same work set to those at home so as to provide an equitable curriculum offer to all students over the next four days.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a fantastic Christmas break. Please stay safe and look after each other. Thank you for getting behind us during our first full term so that we can help our children climb mountains to university or a real life equivalent, thrive in a top job and live their best life. We look forward to welcoming all our students back in January.

Yours faithfully,



Miss P Jones

