

13.10.21

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to my email of earlier today, a *significant* number of additional members of teaching staff have become unwell with seasonal flu. This is in addition to the considerable numbers already self-isolating due to a positive Covid-19 PCR test.

The total number of staff absent is more than the number required to teach an entire year group. Additional cover teachers via agency are largely unavailable in the required quantities as other schools are experiencing similar staff shortages.

We have already implemented emergency cover plans, involving members of SLT covering two classes at once across adjoining rooms (etc). However, these plans cannot stretch to cover the numbers of staff currently absent.

Therefore, I have determined that a single year group will complete remote education from home on Thursday and Friday of this week. **Year 11 will remain at home on Thursday 14th October** (tomorrow) and **Year 10 on Friday 15th October**. Remote work will be set via Firefly task for these students. Live lessons cannot take place as teachers will be deployed to cover their absent colleagues. I will email all parents on Friday afternoon to confirm whether any such arrangements will likely be in place on Monday of next week.

It is with deep regret that we are interrupting the face-to-face education of our students, but in these extraordinary circumstances we feel this is the only option available.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Williams
Head Teacher