

Dear parents and carers,

Apologies for writing to you twice in the same day. In my previous letter, I highlighted that we were facing staff shortages. This is definitely the case for the rest of this week into early next week. Obviously, the situation is changing all of the time. To give you some context, one-third of our catering staff are currently absent as well as 15% of our teachers. This means that we cannot operate as normal.

For this Friday, Year 9 students will need to work at home. They will hopefully return to the academy on Monday 10 January. Work will be put on Frog and students should follow their usual timetable. We will be unable to run live lessons as teachers will be covering lessons for their absent colleagues. Whilst this is something that we hoped to avoid, we do not have an alternative. Year 12 students worked from home for a few days in October and we will do all that we can to protect examination classes of Year 11 and Year 13. This means that, if staff absence levels continue to be high throughout January, students in Years 7 to 10 should be prepared for some disruption. We are monitoring staffing levels daily and we will always try to give you as much notice as possible. Students in Year 9 should still come in tomorrow for their on-site tests.

Due to the situation with catering, students in Years 7 and 8 will need to bring a packed lunch with them to the academy on Friday. Students on free school meals will be provided with lunch.

I will write again on Friday to give you an update on the situation.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Coning
Headteacher