



Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in what has been a challenging few weeks. The students have returned following the Christmas break, and have been settled and eager to learn - which has been brilliant. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank well-wishing parents, who have expressed support and appreciation of staff and their hard work – your calls and emails are gratefully received and truly appreciated.

I write in disappointment, but with the intent on being open and honest. We have been maintaining a staff absence number of up to 22% of our staff body due to positive covid cases. So far, we have been fortunate enough to have been able to cover lessons with agency teachers where absence has been continuous and known. Whilst this is not ideal it has allowed us to fully function to the best of our capabilities during this time. Unfortunately, as cases rise in the community, we are bidding for supply agency staff alongside neighbouring schools and this is now proving problematic for the next few days.

We have analysed trends and patterns of student absence and can see no clear pattern, meaning our covid measures are working. We have had, over the last few days, 115 covid cases in students and these have been distributed across all years and ages. Subsequently, the merging of classes, will not suffice or have any impact on staffing. Due to this, we have made the difficult decision, with the advice and support of Public Health England, and the Local Authority, to **move to remote learning for all Y12 students on Thursday 20th January 2022, Friday 21st January 2022 and Monday 24th January 2022**, with all Y12 students returning to face-to-face teaching on the morning of Tuesday 25th January 2022 as normal. For these three days only, work for Y12 will be placed on Teams and students can access this, as they did in lockdown. Can I just reiterate here, that the normal Y12 teachers will be covering absent staff during your child(s) lesson slot, so they will not be delivering live lessons, nor will they be immediately able to respond to emails in that specific time. We will ensure that work is of the highest quality and that this work is in-line with what the students would be doing if they were in the academy. We know our Y12 students are fantastic students and we are confident in their commitment in being motivated to engage with this process.

We know that there will be some families of children in Y12 that may not have access to the internet or a laptop and we ask that these parents contact Mr Bowers, Director of Sixth form on jbowers@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk so that we can provide support. We will complete a wellbeing call for every student on each of these days also. Again, please contact Mr Bowers for support if required.

For those Y12 students who have external examinations for BTEC IT, please attend the academy at 9am on the day of your examination. This will be in the existing scheduled room. We wish these Y12 students and those in Y13 the best of luck. If there are any queries regarding this, please contact the Examination Officer on exams@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk who will be happy to help.

We really hope that this temporary move to remote learning for Y12 only will allow us to be able to cover all classes in the academy whilst we wait for our teachers at home to recover and return. We cannot predict the next few weeks, but we will certainly endeavour to work towards normality from Tuesday, as this is what our data is currently telling us.

We thank all our students and parents for their support with this, and we look forward to seeing Y7-11, and Y13 in school as normal tomorrow. We thank those Y12 students for their maturity as they work remotely, and we look forward to welcoming them all back on the Tuesday 25th January 2022. I will continue to communicate any changes with the whole community, as and when we have any.

We wish all our students, families and staff community wellness and health over these coming days and we wish all those who are suffering with illness a swift recovery.

Miss Crehan
Principal