



Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Home Learning for Year 10 on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> & Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

So far this academic year we have worked hard to minimise the disruption caused by Covid-19. Regrettably, we have now reached the point where the impact of staff absences means that we cannot provide suitable on-site supervision for all of our students. Therefore, Year 10 students will need to work from home tomorrow and Friday.

Although this decision only impacts Year 10 students and parents, I want all parents to be aware of current developments.

### **Why have we taken this action now?**

In the last two weeks we have experienced rising staff absences, either as a direct result of colleagues testing positive for Covid-19 themselves or because they are absent from work to care for their children with Covid-19.

We are now at the point where nearly 20% of teachers are absent from work and, given the length of isolation periods, this number cannot fall significantly in the coming days.

We have been securing, on average, 5 supply teachers each day in addition to our employed cover supervisors. However, as most schools are in a similar position, supply agencies cannot provide additional relief staff.

Given these constraints we do not have enough staff to provide supervision for all classes and therefore we cannot safely discharge our duty of care. By asking a year group to remain at home we reduce the number of classes that require supervision.

### **Will other year groups be asked to work at home in the future?**

If similar action is required next week or beyond we will rotate across different year groups. This will help minimise the impact for students. Given their impending exams, it is very unlikely that we would ask Years 11 or 13 to work from home.

We have learned that it is very difficult to predict the spread of Covid-19. You may recall that we had outbreaks in October of last year but then had a relatively quiet November and December. I hope that this wave will begin fall soon.

Should we have need to keep any year groups at home next week you will be notified in my usual weekly update which is sent every Friday. Should there be changes over the weekend I may need to write to you Saturday or Sunday.



## What provision will students receive at home?

As much as possible students will have a live lesson delivered via Teams. Lessons will last for 45 minutes and supplementary work may be set. Where live lessons cannot be provided because the class teacher is absent, independent work will be set via Teams (each morning we will email parents and students a list of absent staff so that you are aware of the lessons that won't be live). We will not provide live lessons for PE and encourage students to find an opportunity for their own suitable physical activity.

Information regarding the use of Teams can be accessed here:

- [Guidance for parents](#)
- [Guidance for students](#)

If you have any queries about remote learning provision then please contact my PA, Sarah Farndon ([sfarndon@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:sfarndon@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)).

We hoped that this step could be avoided but in the face of such high levels of staff absence it has become necessary. By acting today for the rest of this week we have given as much notice as possible to families and teachers.

I am grateful for your support in this.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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