

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

Principal: Ms Lisa Boorman

Telephone: (01752) 338373

Email: enquiries@plympton.academy

www.plympton.academy



Dear parents/carers

9th March, 2022

I am writing to update you on our current staffing levels and the difficulties we are facing as an Academy regarding the ability to staff classrooms.

Despite the government's guidelines around "living with Covid", the guidance for staff who test positive on a PCR test for Covid is to still isolate for up to 10 days, providing two days of negative lateral flow tests prior to returning. We currently have ten members of staff absent and despite having supply teachers to support the learning for our students, we are unable to secure enough to cover all year groups.

At this point we would put on large group teaching in the main hall and provide support for learning in a form that, whilst not ideal, is not home learning, as we appreciate the disruption it can cause for families. However, our year 10, 11 and 13 students are currently undertaking their mock exams in preparation for June and I am sure you appreciate how important these are for their future successes.

As such, in discussion with the Trust, we are making the difficult decision to send year groups home. Good remote learning is provided through our learning portal, Google Classroom, and there is an expectation that students complete this at home in their homework booklets or other appropriate exercise book for that subject.

Whilst other schools may not be experiencing this problem, we have remained open at other points this year whilst other schools close or send year groups home. Each school has its own unique challenges at the moment regarding staffing and self-isolation. We are also finding that we have very small numbers of students absent with Covid currently which is also different to some schools.

In line with the previous contingency plan the following days will be allocated to year groups in case of closure:

Monday - Year 8

Tuesday - Year 9

Wednesday - Year 10

Thursday - Year 12

Friday - Year 7

We will endeavour to notify you as soon as possible regarding a year group closure, however, if you feel your child is unable to remain safely at home, or if your child has already started their journey to school



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and is unable to return home, we are able to provide a small area for students to complete their home learning.

I hope that we will move through this phase very quickly and appreciate your patience and support in this matter. If you would like to discuss this matter further please do contact the academy on enquiries@plympton.academy

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Boorman', with a large, stylized loop at the end of the word 'Boorman'.

Lisa Boorman
Principal