

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

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Ref: LBO/TOV

1st November 2021

Dear parent/carer

I hope you and your family have kept well over the half term break and are continuing to support the opening of the Academy through the completion of the lateral flow tests.

As you are aware, Plymouth is still a high infection rate local authority and as such protective measures, such as wearing face coverings in communal areas, are still recommended and will be an expectation for staff and students at the Academy. However, the level of infection will continue to be present and the need to isolate when having a positive test is still necessary.

At the end of last term the staffing levels at the Academy were particularly impacted through illness, both covid and non-covid, and some students were provided with study work in the Hall in the lessons where there was a teacher that was absent. The concern, both myself and the Governing body has, is where this reaches a critical level and we are unable to staff lessons at the Academy for a morning/afternoon, a day or for longer. In order to try and provide some structure to last minute staff absence, as a last resort it may be necessary to send a partial year group or full year group home. I do wish to stress that this would be an absolute last resort and hope that this situation will not surface this winter.

To try and support childcare and parenting for this type of situation, where a decision is made at 0745 in the morning, the following days are the allocated days when a year group may be sent home.

Year 8 - Monday

Year 9 - Tuesday

Year 10 - Thursday

Year 12 - Friday

You will receive a text in the morning to inform you that your son/daughter will not be attending school for that day due to high levels of staff absence and that they will need to stay at home and access work online through Classcharts and Google Classroom.

Years 7, 11 and 13 are not included due to their particular circumstances.

Once again, this will only be implemented in an emergency situation and we will try to provide early notice wherever possible. If you feel that you are unable to keep your son/daughter safe at home please do not hesitate to contact your head of year or the SENCO who will look to support an alternative arrangement.

I thank you in advance for your support with this matter; please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this, or any other matter, further.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boorman".

Ms L Boorman
Principal