

8 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 provision at John Smeaton Academy on Monday 10 January 2022

Our teaching capacity at John Smeaton Academy has been severely restricted due to staff isolating as instructed by NHS England. **It is, therefore, with regret that I write to you to inform you that students in Year 8 will be asked to work at home on Monday 10 January. A small group of students will be required to attend school in line with the guidance previously issued by the government. This provision will be in place for students with an Education Health and Care Plan or where there are other extenuating circumstances; we will be contacting those families via text message or phone call ahead of Monday morning. Year 8 students who attend Horizons should continue to attend as normal.**

Home Learning

Home learning will be available for all students when they are not in the academy. This will be provided through Microsoft Teams and students will be rewarded in line with the Positive Discipline system where they have submitted their work to a good standard. A guide for accessing home learning is available on the website and a copy will also be sent to all parents/carers. If your child does not have access to a device (laptop or Chromebook), then please contact the academy and we will provide a device as soon as possible.

Home Testing

May we politely remind all parent/carers of the importance of regular (at least twice weekly) home testing of secondary age pupils to ensure the safety of our community. If you require home testing kits, please contact the academy.

Covid-19 measures

I am incredibly impressed with the way our pupils have returned to the academy, particularly following the government enforced changes around face coverings. Can I please ask that all parents/carers continue to support the academy in reminding your child of the importance of following both the academy expectations around behaviour and engagement as well as the academy Covid-19 risk assessment. A copy of both can be found on the academy website. In this most challenging of times, we must do all that we can to keep each other safe and minimise disruption to learning.

I do apologise for any inconvenience this creates for you but would hope for your continued support in these difficult times. Please be reassured that Year 8 students will be able to attend the academy on Tuesday 11 January unless there are significantly more staff absences or any other extenuating circumstances. We will endeavour to communicate as soon as we are able to and are very grateful for your understanding. The situation we are currently in is exceptionally challenging and we are doing all we can to ensure we can keep our community safe and receiving a high quality learning experience.

If you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact us via email at enquiries@johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk and we will do our very best to respond in as timely manner as possible.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Griffiths
Principal