**23.1.22**

**Re. Staff Absences – Year 8 Remote Learning from 24 to 26 January 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I’m writing to tell you about the worsening staff absence situation at the Academy, caused predominantly by COVID at this time.

On Friday, we had 7.5% of students absent from school with COVID, with years 7 and 8 most affected. But the current staffing picture worsened significantly today, with at least 11 teachers absent tomorrow constituting 30% of the teaching workforce, and an additional number of support staff too. Most of this absence is COVID related.

We have been working with supply agencies all weekend and have booked the maximum number of supply teachers for tomorrow, but the agencies themselves have been hit hard with absence.

Unfortunately, this makes it impossible for me to safely supervise and teach all of our students in the Academy this coming week. Therefore, to keep all students safe it is necessary for me to request that students in Year 8 are kept at home for remote learning from Monday to Wednesday of this week. Our [**Remote Learning Policy**](https://www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/about-us/our-policies-and-procedures/) attached will start immediately for Year 8.

**Year 8 remote learning from Monday 24th January to Wednesday 26th January inclusive**

Students should use their school laptops or another Internet enabled device to access Microsoft Teams via the installed app or via Microsoft Office 365. They should log into tutor time and each of their lessons at the normal times using their different class tiles. Students log in with: [first.lastname@student.wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:first.lastname@student.wixamsacademy.co.uk) and their normal password. If they have forgotten their password, please email us on [info@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@wixamsacademy.co.uk) and we will reset it within the hour (from tomorrow).

Wherever possible tutor-time and lessons will be taught “live” to give students the best experience possible. However, you will appreciate that many teachers are sick, so this will not always be possible. If it has not been possible to teach a live lesson, students must check ‘Show My Homework’ for work set there.

We will of course have a provision for Year 8 students in school who are not able to stay at home this week. If your child has special learning requirements or vulnerabilities or if you are really not able to keep them at home, you may send them in as normal on Monday. They will be looked after and supervised and will access most of their lessons via computer. If you are sending your child in, please send them in with their laptop. However, if you are able to keep your child at home, this will help us enormously with such low staffing levels in the Academy.

I would like to thank all of you for your support and I am sorry that yet again we have had to take a measure like this. I want to assure you that this will be a very short-term action which will only be necessary until our staffing levels rise again. I am sorry for the inconvenience this will cause you.

I will write to you all again early this week to keep you abreast of the staffing situation in the Academy.

Yours sincerely,

**Paul Spyropoulos**

**Principal**