

CWA/GHA

21 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: COVID-19 Staffing Update**

I hope your working week has started well.

This is a brief update letter to highlight that for the third week in a row, our staffing absences remain extremely high due to positive COVID-19 cases. At present, we have 17 teaching and 20 support staff out of the academy. As was the case the week beginning Monday 7 March 2022 and last Friday 18 March 2022, we are endeavouring to staff this internally and without collapsing any more year groups for a day, however, I have to be honest and say this continues to present somewhat unprecedented challenges to my team of Colleagues and I with the COVID-19 related staffing absences for the past 11 days almost matching those for the past two years. Nevertheless, the staff and I will continue in the same collaborative manner as we always do and endeavour to overcome whatever challenge comes our way. As always though, we could not do this without your support as well as that of our students themselves of course.

Whilst we're conversing and again, in our usual spirit of transparency, our COVID-19 student-related cases currently sit at 88 (5.1% of our overall student cohort) across all year groups. Therefore, this is actually showing a fairly significant downward trend with half the amount of student COVID-19 cases reported today than last Monday. Still, we are continuing to keep in a number of mitigations including full ventilation in classrooms, teaching areas and offices, one-way systems at lesson changeovers, PE kit being worn on the days our students have PE or Dance, and virtual assemblies and large staff meetings. Many Colleagues have also opted to keep sanitiser in their classrooms and office bases and face coverings may continue to be worn by any stakeholder who still wishes to do so.

Should our staffing situation becoming even more challenging in the days ahead, I will of course inform you without delay along with any further necessary actions we will have to take as a result.

Yours sincerely



Mr C A Wakefield  
Executive Principal