

26 January 2022

Dear parent/carer

Re: Year 9 temporary move to remote learning from Friday 28 January 2022 – Monday 31 January 2022

As you may be aware, the Academy has been managing high levels of staff absence since our return in January. We have worked hard to stay fully open by utilising available supply staff, existing staff taking on additional lessons to cover for colleagues, and in line with Department for Education advice, joining classes in our Concert Hall and Theatre.

Unfortunately, because of these acute staff shortages, I have made the difficult decision to move Year 9 lessons to Remote Learning from Friday 28 January 2022 – Monday 31 January 2022 inclusive. No other year groups are affected. Year 9 students should not attend the Academy during this time and will return to normal lessons on Tuesday 1 February 2022.

We will be able to offer on-site provision for vulnerable students. A member of the Academy team will contact you on Thursday 27 January if your child has been identified as having an on-site place. If you are not contacted your child should work from home.

Students should log into Microsoft Teams at 8.40am, on both Friday 28 January and Monday 31 January, and join their assigned Coaching Group. The coach will register the student, outline the day ahead and answer any questions they may have. Students will undertake a range of live lessons (Gold Lessons), Oak National Academy video lessons (Blue Lessons) and a screen free activity. Full details will be available on our website www.dukeries.atrust.org.uk. It is expected that students should attend all lessons and complete the work set. Attendance and engagement will be monitored, by Academy staff, using Insight software in Microsoft Teams.

Based on current information, we believe all students in Year 9 have access to a device which will allow them to access Remote Learning. If this is not the case, please contact us via our office email DUK-office@atrust.org.uk as soon as possible. We will loan devices to students who need them.

We have recently provided every student with details of their Academy username and password. In addition, we will take time on Thursday 27 January, to remind students how to login and join a Teams lesson. If your child needs support logging in, please email us DUK-office@atrust.org.uk or call on 01623 860545.

If your child is eligible for a Free School Meal, we will provide a packed lunch each day. This can be picked up, by an adult from reception, between 11.30am and 12.30pm.

I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, and I appreciate your ongoing support as we navigate the challenges which have resulted from COVID.

Kind regards



Mr Ged Rae
Principal