Oakbank School

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7 Students

Re: COVID-19 Year 7 Closure

I write in regards to a partial school closure due to increasing staff absence from school.

For Thursday 3rd December (tomorrow) and Friday 4th December school will be closed for Y7.

As you are aware a significant number of Year 7 students are currently self-isolating and they have now been joined by a significant number of staff.

The pandemic and lockdown continue to present challenges for us all. Similar to all secondary schools in Wokingham, we are experiences very high levels of staff absence.

These absences are largely COVID related, especially in regards to self-isolation or isolation of staff's children, clinically extremely vulnerable staff needing to work from home, some clinically vulnerable staff minimising face to face contact, expectant mums needing to start maternity leave early to move away from a public facing role, and of course other more usual staff absences.

To exemplify this, each day this week we have had over 25% of staff away from school. This is a significant increase since September and October and is only rising.

This situation is of course causing an increasing burden on other staff who are covering for their absent colleagues. As staff absences have increase I now need to initiate a partial school closure and will be closing Y7 classes for the remainder of this week.

For Year 7 working at home, work will be set via Teams. Staff will be available on MS Teams **wherever possible**, following our current three lesson timetable, to support Y7 learning.

If you work in the health, education, childcare or emergency services sectors your children will still be able to attend school, please let your Head of Year Miss Ogidi know in advance so that suitable arrangements can be made.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Bertrand
Head Teacher

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