



Saint Benedict
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Our ref: KEG/C/1534/MM

20 November 2020

To all Parents and Carers of Year 8

Dear Parents and Carers

As a result of unusually high levels of staff absence, we do not have the ability to staff all lessons for all pupils in Year 8 next week. Due to the high numbers of staff having to isolate and the high levels of demand nationally on supply teachers, we do not have staffing availability to open to all pupils in year groups.

We have made the difficult decision to direct some pupils in Year 8 to work from home for Tuesday and Wednesday of the week commencing 23rd November. Had these pupils been in school, we would not have been able to provide them with any subject specific teaching. Having carefully analysed staffing levels for the week, we are confident that for Monday, Thursday and Friday, we will be able to meet all pupils' needs. Reducing numbers in this small way will allow us to ensure we are operating safely with the remaining pupils and staff in school.

We have identified only a very small number of classes that will need to be directed to work at home. Many pupils in these identified classes are already self-isolating. If your child is in one of these classes, you will receive a text message and email by 3 pm today, confirming your child is to remain at home on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November. If you have not received a text or email by this time, your child must attend as normal every day next week.

In keeping with Government guidelines, all pupils directed to work at home will have work set for them to complete. This will be done via Satchel:One, the platform we use to set homework. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to download the free Satchel:One parent app which will notify you of the work set for your child each day.

I must apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and can assure you that the action has only been taken as a last resort after very careful analysis of our staffing and curriculum for the week ahead. We are conducting similar analyses on a weekly basis and will do everything we can to ensure those pupils directed to work at home this week are not affected again.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards

Kevin Gritton
Headteacher



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