



13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Families,

As you know, despite the update yesterday by the Prime Minister and the ongoing challenges, schools remain open at this time.

Unfortunately, we are now experiencing some challenges with staffing at Walworth Academy, which means we need to move to a partial timetable for some students. This is largely as a result of seasonal absence and the new requirements to isolate so we hope this will ease with the change of regulations coming in later this week, but we need to ensure we have the right numbers of staff in school to deliver lessons for students.

**School is therefore currently closed to students in Years 9 and 10 today and tomorrow (Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December).**

The school has not reached the Public Health reporting threshold for student cases so families do not need to worry unduly – it genuinely is a staffing issue. We remain in contact with the Department for Education, who are happy with our control measures and will let us know if anything needs to change. **It is, however, really important that families continue to support us by ensuring their children do their home tests twice a week.** Any positive results should be reported to us and confirmatory PCR tests should be arranged.

Students in Years 9 and 10 can find class work on ShowMyHomework and should continue to study during this short break. Families are reminded that **every child in our school is entitled to a Walworth Academy laptop at no cost** and we would urge that all take up that offer at this time just in case of suspension of contact lessons later in the year. The forms for these can be picked up at main reception at any time by students or by families.

No students in other year groups should be remote learning during this time; the schedule is organised to insulate exam groups so students in all other years are expected in school unless in receipt of a positive test. This is particularly important for students in Years 11 and 13, who are on track to sit formal examinations this year.

In the case of Year 13s who are within six months of their eighteenth birthdays, we would strongly recommend that families consider and discuss vaccination. Under 18s are not required to isolate unless they become ill, but students of 18 years old must be double vaccinated if they wish to avoid 10 days of self-isolation whenever they encounter a case. This practice represents significant risk to school attendance and exam attainment – should students be isolating on an exam day, there is currently no provision for them to sit the exam at all. We do not wish to see any of our students disadvantaged and so we would ask families to consider vaccination carefully, with enough time for both vaccinations before exam season in May 2022.

As always, please contact your child's director of progress with any concerns you may have. We will do our best to support and reassure you.

Yours faithfully,

Ms J West  
Principal

Ark Walworth Academy

Shorncliffe Road  
London SE1 5UJ  
T (020) 7450 9570

info@walworthacademy.org  
www.walworthacademy.org  
Principal: Ms Jessica West



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