

Ark Putney Academy

Pullman Gardens

London

SW15 3DG



Principal: Ms Alison Downey

Preparing every student to be a pillar of any community

6th January, 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you at the start of the term with some key updates so that you, as parents and carers have an understanding of our situation on returning to school. In line with the national picture we have started back with a high level of staff absence due to covid. This is and will continue to cause us significant issues in terms of covering teaching and support services. At the moment we are particularly affected by a high rate of absence with regards to our Teaching Assistants which means that we are unable at times to support our most vulnerable students in the way that we would normally do.

It is my ambition that we remain open for all students despite the challenges ahead. Students are best served if they are taught at school from both an educational and social perspective. In order to do this we may well have to make compromises which involve a high level of cover lessons, merging groups and supervising students in the hall for parts of the day or asking students to work on laptops taught by staff who are self-isolating at home. The worst case scenario is that we move to remote learning for certain year groups for certain short periods of time. However I must stress that this would be as a final resort and only if I felt that due to supervision issues student safety was compromised.

On a related issue, as directed by the government we are asking all students to wear masks in lessons and inside the building. Please can you ensure that your child attends school with two masks. Staff will also be wearing masks unless they are teaching at the front of the classroom. It is really important that we adhere to this policy as in order to remain open we need to reduce the chances of transmission. There are two other actions that you can take as a family to help protect the school community. Firstly please continue to LFT on a regular basis; we have a huge stock of these tests and are encouraging students to take them home. Secondly I would encourage you to follow the government guidelines with regards to accessing the vaccination for 12-15 year olds. Public Health England are opening up their test centres for the second jab for those who had their first jab 12 weeks ago. In addition, you can still secure a first jab for your child at one of these centres which can be booked through the NHS portal.

Thank you for your support in these matters

Kind regards

Ms A Downey
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