

Belong. Believe. Be Proud.

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Principal: Mr Dan Milford



Ref: DM/SAH

30th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware from recent reports in the media that as educators we are facing a crisis in staffing and recruitment, indeed a recent piece in one of the broadsheets reported *“staff absence levels are ‘unsustainable’ and ‘worse than ever’ as stretched budgets and a worsening recruitment crisis push workforce to the limit.”*

Here at TKASA we pride ourselves on our community school and the great support we have from staff, students and the community. I am therefore very sad to write that, like so many schools locally and nationally, we are at a point of high staff sickness within our school at present. Indeed we have nearly 20 teachers absent today, which equates to nearly 30% of our teaching staff. So far this term, we have managed to cover this by buying in additional agency and temporary staff and asking our current staff to cover for their absent colleagues.

This has meant that there have been occasions where your child has not been taught by a subject specialist, or has been taught in larger groups where it has been necessary to double up classes and teach classes together.

Whilst we do everything we can to ensure that each student is with a subject specialist teacher in the absence of their teacher, we cannot always guarantee this during this period.

At the time of writing, the situation has escalated and staff sickness has increased today. If this high level of sickness continues in the next 24 hours, it may be necessary for me to close a year group on Thursday and Friday of this week. If we close a year group we will communicate this to you as soon as possible and move the relevant year group to remote learning for the day. Can I reassure you that we would not close Year 11s or Year 13s, as we are mindful that this is their examination year. Rest assured this will be the last resort if we do take this action, and we hope to be able to avoid this.

Please keep a close eye on your Weduc portal, your emails or our website for further updates in the next 24 hours regarding potential year group closure, as we will aim to give you as much notice as we can as to which year group this will affect.

I understand that some of you may have queries or questions and I would ask that if you do, that you contact the school on info@tkasa.theplt.org.uk in the usual way. Thank you for your support as always.

Yours faithfully

Dan Milford
Principal