



31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Year 10 Working at Home on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

I am sorry to have to say that I have needed to take the decision to ask Year 10 students to work at home tomorrow. I had previously written to you to give some advance warning that we might find ourselves in this position due to staff absence and I know that you will be aware that I would not have come to this outcome lightly. I know a good number of other schools have needed to put this arrangement in place for the same reason.

Our staff absence has been abnormally high for a good number of weeks and the staff body have gone above and beyond in order to try and support the operation of the school by covering colleagues. We do work with some regular supply staff who are well known to our students and we also bring in agency supply staff where we can. The pool of agency staff has severely dwindled as demand has been so high nationally and therefore despite many phone calls there are none available to us. We have looked at tomorrow and we simply cannot cover all the classes required.

Students will not need to log on for tutor time but will start at Period 1 at 9.10am with lessons being set on Microsoft Teams to work through in their own time. Staff will not be 'live' and available as we will be using them to cover other colleagues' lessons in school.

Things are about to change in England with regards to COVID arrangements and we have this morning begun to get information through from the Department for Education about how this impacts both students and staff attending school. I will be communicating this home once we are clear on the impact of this on how we operate.

Again my apologies for this; however I hope you understand the situation we are in. All other students should attend Chew Valley School as usual. We will be informing Year 10 students themselves during Period 5 this afternoon.

With best wishes

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher