



**Queen Katharine
Academy**

A proud member of



Principal: Mrs Lynn Mayes
Queen Katharine Academy
Mountsteven Avenue, Walton
Peterborough, PE4 6HX
Tel: 01733 383888
Email: info@qka.education
Web: www.qka.education

Our Ref LM/jd/Y9Closure

6 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Temporary closure of Year 9

You may have seen on our social media and in the news yesterday that we were forced to close to one of our year groups for the remainder of the week.

Firstly, I want to be clear that this was not because of any positive cases of Covid-19 in the academy. Therefore, I wanted to write to you all to reassure you and explain why this decision was made.

All schools across the country are required to have an appropriate number of staff based on the number of students that need to be in school for health and safety reasons.

Under normal circumstances, staff absences rarely cause problems and can be quickly solved.

However, under the current circumstances, schools are facing several challenges with staff absences which are higher than normal. In addition to normal illnesses, staff are required to follow the government's self-isolation guidelines for many reasons. For example, if a member of their family believes they have developed symptoms and are waiting for the results of a test, if a member of their family is classified as being vulnerable, or if they have children who have been told to stay at home because their school has closed a 'bubble'.

The combined impact of these measures means that more staff need to stay at home. Over the coming weeks and months, many schools will not have enough staff able to attend school on a specific day and will be forced to close year groups.

Sadly, this is what happened at Queen Katharine Academy this week. The safety and wellbeing of everyone at the academy is always our highest priority, and on this occasion, due to lower staffing levels, it means that we will need Year 9 to stay at home until Monday when we expect to have the right number of staff back in school.

All Year 9 students are able to continue their learning remotely and work has been set on Microsoft Teams using this link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3a7bbe2349594566b1dd130295ec9870%40thread.ta/cv2/conversations?groupId=d1c0f49a-5b8c-44e0-8974-e02da5ef1725&tenantId=f30a8c9e-6852-4df0-8cb3-99269b4f1d66>

Continued/



Unity of Purpose
Trust | Diversity | Excellence | Transformation

Company No: 05090788
Web: www.tdet.education
Email: info@tdet.education



Continued/2

While we are working closely with our Trust to identify ways to minimise the impact, the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 means we cannot guarantee that this type of closure will not happen again. However, we will announce any decisions as soon as possible in the following ways: on our Website, Parent Mail and our social media platforms; Facebook and Twitter.

I can only apologise for the disruption these decisions cause but assure you that we will always act in the best interests of our students' safety and wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support you have shown the academy during these challenging times.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Mayes." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a period at the end.

Lynn Mayes
Principal, Queen Katharine Academy