

East Birmingham Network Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

21st May 2020

We hope you and your families are well and staying safe at this time.

I am writing with an update in relation to the current closure status of EBN 1 (Yardley) and EBN 2 (Castle Vale). As you will probably be aware, last week the government published guidance about schools planning to welcome more children back, starting with primary schools: Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, and followed by an increase in face to face contact with secondary students currently in Year 10 (and 12). The guidance for this to begin is as soon as it is safe, but this is only if certain conditions are met e.g. concerning health data and the current "R" value. The government will be reviewing the data towards the end of May and will also be issuing schools with further guidance.

In preparation for potential welcoming back of more students we have been in contact with Year 10 parents/carers this week to gauge their feeling about sending their child(ren) to school and find out how they would be travelling to and from school. This is initially to get a sense of how many parents/carers are happy for their child to attend site so that we can plan as effectively as possible.

Any provision for a Year 10 student would in the first instance take the format of a short period of time onsite at an allocated time of the week. This would include meeting with key teaching and pastoral staff to discuss academic work, receive feedback and guidance on completed work and raise any other relevant issues. Initially, time onsite will be very limited to help us ensure the health, safety and well-being of staff and students. Plans and provision will be reviewed on a weekly basis and adjusted where necessary, based on the most up to date government guidance and confirmed numbers of students who require provision.

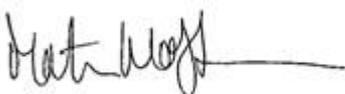
In relation to Year 9 students, until further guidance is given about their return to school, we will continue to be provide work and make well-being calls on a weekly basis. In addition to this we are looking at ways we can develop the ongoing provision of work for Year 9 while the closure continues. Year 11 students will continue to be provided with careers advice/guidance and support around their post-16 plans and applications. There may be opportunity for this to take place face-to-face but if this is not possible we will ensure it is complete over the telephone.

Finally, please be assured that we are working hard across the EBN Trust and collaborating with local schools to plan how we will be able to follow national health and safety guidance in response to the COVID-19 virus. At this time the health and safety of our students and staff is our main priority and all steps will be taken to make attendance on site as safe as possible. Following further government guidance expected at the end of the month we will be in a position to update you with more detail of our proposed plans for Year 10 students to keep them as safe as possible.

I am sure many of you will have concerns and questions - this is only natural. We are working on this as quickly as we can to put the best possible plans in place and provide you with more detailed information. Please can we ask you to bear with us until we can provide you with more information.

Thank you so much for your continued support and understanding, it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Baldwin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Matthew Baldwin
Executive Head Teacher