

East Birmingham Network Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

27th August 2020

As most of you will be aware the government has confirmed its previously stated intention that all students should return to school from September. We are excited about the possibility of all our students accessing a full-time education again and have been preparing for this over the summer, following national guidance published by the government.

All students will be expected to resume full attendance at EBN Academy 2

This letter follows on from the letter we sent last week, and is intended to explain what we have put in place to ensure all students can return to school safely and how we will resume their education. Due to the size of the school and in line with Government guidance we are treating the whole school as one group or “bubble” however we will minimise contact between students from different year groups. It is clear that we cannot create a totally risk-free environment. However, the work we have already completed makes us confident that we can minimise any risks from COVID-19 whilst providing a normal educational experience for all students. A key part of our plans will ensure we are able to quickly respond to what could be a changing situation – for example in resuming remote learning should there be any localised lockdown in Birmingham at any time. The health and safety of our students and staff will always be our priority.

The key principles that have driven our detailed planning are outlined below:

1. Reviewing our current risk assessments and operational procedures to make sure anyone who is ill stays at home and our immediate response to anyone with symptoms is secure and confident.
2. Reviewing our systems and facilities in place to support robust hand and respiratory hygiene when all students and staff have returned to school.
3. Reviewing our cleaning arrangements so that we can maintain enhanced hygiene across the school site.
4. Making sure we are absolutely clear about how active engagement with NHS Test and Trace will work as all staff and students return to site, so that we can continue to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We have also revised our operational running of the school to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible, minimising the potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

In line with national guidance, we have:

- a. Staggered transitions between lessons, finish times and social times so that we are able to manage the school day with groups avoiding contact with each other as much as possible.
- b. Ensured that, where possible, staff are able to maintain distance from students and other staff by arranging our classrooms and modifying shared areas to accommodate this. Highly coordinated timings of movement and circulation around the building will also form part of our control measures here.
- c. Completed rigorous risk assessments of practical subjects and adapted practice will ensure that our students continue to have a broad and balanced experience whilst still keeping safe.
- d. **UPDATE TO PREVIOUS GUIDANCE –**
 - Due to issues with public transport and distance travelled by some students we **WILL NOT** be staggering start times apart from on Monday 7th September 2020 – we will contact you in w/b 31st August to confirm your child’s start time on that day.

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- There has been a change in guidance on the wearing of face coverings/masks. The Government have left the decision on wearing masks down to the individual Head Teachers of schools. With this in mind EBN Academy Trust have decided that if staff/students want to wear face masks between lessons and at communal times, this will be permitted. Face masks will not be permitted in lesson at this point. A link to the most up to date government guidance relating to the use of coverings can be found in the COVID section of our website. This situation will kept under review, and any changes will take into account further guidance and local issues.

Any developments regarding the COVID-19 situation will be communicated via phone call, text message, written letter or via our website. Information relating to safe use of public transport can be found on our website in the COVID section.

Student Expectations:

The EBN Academy Behaviour Policy has been updated and is available on our website. While we understand this will be a new experience of school for all students our normal behaviour and conduct expectations will continues to apply however there will be additional emphasis on the following:

- Students will be expected to attend school in full uniform and provide an appropriate change of clothes for PE.
- Students will follow teacher/adult instructions without delay or question.
- Students will be expected to and responsible for following social distancing guidelines
- Students will be expected to sit in the seat allocated to them by the teacher and remain seated unless told to move by the teacher.
- Students must not move tables of chairs.
- Students will be expected to hand and sign in all their belonging at the start of the school day and the normal routines in relation to this will apply.

We do understand that some students, parents and staff will be anxious about a full return to school, especially where they or their families have been shielding for a long time. Our experience to date has shown that prioritising time for conversations and support is critical and so a member of staff will be in contact with all parents/carers and w/b 31st August 2020 to discuss an anxiety there may be around students returning to school.

I hope that this letter has provided you with sufficient information and sets out our next steps very clearly. I look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back to school full time and wish to thank you for your ongoing care and support, it is very much appreciated and critical to us at such a demanding time.

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



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