

31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

School Re-Opening: January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer, I hope that you have had a good Christmas break so far and have managed to get some well-earned rest.

You will, no doubt, have been following the developments in relation to school's return in January and based on yesterday's announcement and subsequent update from the DFE we are now in position to provide more clarity on the re-opening of the EBN Academy 2 from Monday 4th January.

Based on the guidance, all students in Alternative Provision are classed as vulnerable meaning that we will fully re-open next week for all students, in all year groups. I am sure you are also aware that all schools are to roll out a mass testing program over the coming weeks. We have received initial guidance on this but are expecting more detail to follow. As is the case with all secondary schools, we are planning to have the testing process in place by Monday 11th January 2020. Once we have further information about the programme and it's roll-out we will share it with you and give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Preparation for this programme will be a significant undertaking for all schools and there is a large amount of work to do to get the process properly prepared. With this being the case, **Monday 4th January 2021 will be taken as a training day** to allow us to look at the logistics of this programme and plan the process in more detail. This means that students will return to school on **Tuesday 5th January 2021.**

I am sure that many of you will have followed the developments in relation to COVID transmission and infection rates over the Christmas period and some of you may be concerned at the current national situation. Please be rest assured that the system of controls that are in place in the Academy are in line with the government guidance and risk assessment has been undertaken and is ongoing. That being said, I must also take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers and students of their responsibilities to keep themselves safe at school. This includes:

1. **Social Distancing** - social distancing requires all members of the school community to maintain a safe distance (minimum 2 metres) from others at all times. Where this is not possible face-to-face contact with others must be avoided and the time spent within close proximity (1 metre) to another person must be limited.
2. **Face Coverings** - face coverings **MUST** be worn, correctly, in communal areas of the Academy including corridors, reception areas, the Bailey room, social space and other areas where social distancing cannot be easily maintained. Staff/students are not required to wear face-coverings in classrooms however they may wear them if they wish to.
3. **Maintaining good hand and respiratory hygiene** - hand sanitisers are provided on all classrooms, communal spaces and office space. Students must ensure they sanitise/wash their hands frequently and at the end of every lesson. Respiratory hygiene should be maintained using the "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" approach.

4. **Symptoms** – If your child, or anyone in your household, displays any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 they **MUST NOT** attend school. The main symptoms are a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change in your sense of taste or smell. If your child or a member your household have any of these symptoms you all must stay at home, self-isolate and book a COVID test for the person with symptoms. If you have a COVID test booked for your child **you must inform us of the result immediately,** and we will advise you on the next steps based on the test result.

It is absolutely vital for everyone's safety, and the ongoing operation of the Academies, that these rules are followed. Failure to do so could result in unnecessary risk to others and to the functioning of the school. If you have any questions relating to this then please get in contact with the Academy.

I very much hope that things will begin to improve over the coming months and thank you all in advance for your ongoing support as we move into 2021.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mat Baldwin', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Matthew Baldwin
Executive Head Teacher