

#COREcollaboration #COREStrongerTogether

1st June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer.

It has been a remarkable two months to say the least. We are extremely proud of both the on-site and distance learning provision we have developed in a very short space of time. We have managed to achieve this through close collaboration between the two schools. It is our intention that every student continues their education and feels fully supported throughout these extraordinary times. This newsletter outlines just some of the ways in which we are doing this. We will write to parents as soon as we have more detail about the wider reopening of school, which will in the initial phase involve Year 10 students.

On site provision

Children of key workers/vulnerable students have been attending the provision on site at Central Academy since day one of the national closure. These students continue to impress with their work ethic and positive attitude towards their learning.

CORE CONNECTS

We realise that for some of our students learning online has taken them out of their comfort zone, and we know they would prefer to be in their classrooms participating in lessons. However, we believe it is our role through this pandemic to continue to deliver a CORE education and to remain role models for all our students. We would do our best to ensure that all students come back to us safe and equipped to continue their learning in school. To support the education of our students we will continue to perform live teaching online. Timetables for all year groups can be found on the school website and on the school twitter account.

From June 1st, the times of the lessons will be

9:30 am to 10:00 am: Form time

10:00 am to 11:00 am: Lesson 1

11:00 am to 11:30 am: Break

11:30 am to 12:30 pm: Lesson 2

12:30 pm to 1: 30 pm: Lesson 3

Students can spend the afternoon by engaging with CORE Extra.



City Academy

23 Langley Walk, Birmingham. B15 2EF

tel: 0121 729 7100

email: enquiries@city-birmingham.academy

www.city-birmingham.academy



Central Academy

Newhall Street, Birmingham. B3 1SJ

tel: 0121 729 7160

email: enquiries@core-central.academy

www.corecentral.academy



CORE Extra

Recently we have been able to evaluate and reflect on our CORE Extra programme and have, as a result, developed the offer so that more students can engage in extracurricular activities.

Masterclasses

Masterclasses are designed as an enrichment class, complementing and adding value to foster a collaborative ethos between schools. We are expanding the masterclass provision so that they happen at the end of each day, Monday to Thursday, and that more Year 10 students can get involved.

Monday: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: English Masterclasses

Tuesday: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Maths Masterclasses (Higher & Foundation)

Wednesday: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Science Masterclasses (Higher & Foundation)

Thursday: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: History Masterclasses

Thursday: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Geography Masterclasses

Thursday: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: French Masterclasses

Thursday: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Spanish Masterclasses

Tuesday Talents

Tuesday Talents has really given our students the opportunity to 'show off' their talent. We are going to continue with Tuesday Talents, but it is going to be more structured where students will be able to sign up to a session from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm and students can develop their talents. These will mainly include, but not exhaustive to The Arts, Sport/Physical Activity and Design Technology. Please refer to school website and school twitter account for regular updates.

Wednesday Wisdom and Thursday Thoughts

These have both been really successful at not only maintaining contact with students but also providing them with all the information they need to continue to lead a healthy lifestyle. Staff share amazing videos and share opportunities for students to be involved in. Please refer to school website and school twitter account for regular updates.

Friday Fun

This is now going to be a live event on Friday Afternoon where Mr. Rogers, Trust Headteacher, will present some live quizzes/challenges for students to take part and have some fun. Please refer to school website and school twitter account for regular updates.



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Pastoral

Student Registration

For all students with access to devices and the internet it is the expectation that they are signed into Form between 09:30-10:00am every day. In order to do this, students need to:

- Open Microsoft Teams
- Log into their Form Group Team
- Enter the registration, this has been set up by the Form Tutor
- Enter a message to say "Hello" or click on the 'thumbs up' emoji to say they are there

Form Time

Form Time takes place between 09:30–10:00am every day. This is a time where students are able to touch base with their form tutor as they normally would in school. Additionally, each morning there are bespoke activities to promote wellbeing, encourage social and emotional development and also a space for students to share their thoughts and feelings during this time. We think it is so important to keep this daily contact with Form Tutors to maintain those relationships.

Free School Meals – Update for Parents

The system for Free School Meals vouchers is now up and running, although there are still occasional issues with the DFE system. If you have any issues at all with Free School Meals, do email enquiries@corecentral.academy or enquiries@city-birmingham.academy and we will do our best to help you. Do not forget to check your eligibility if your circumstances change so you get the support you are entitled to.

If for whatever reason you are struggling during this period, we have some provision of breakfast packs available for families to collect from school. If you would like to collect one of these packs, please email the Welfare Team on safeDSL@corecentral.academy and we will contact you to arrange a date and time you are able to collect this fortnightly.

Additional support

What we currently provide:

- Breakfast Packs - To support our most vulnerable students and parents throughout the weeks.
- Mindfulness Programme - Bespoke mentoring programme around mental health and mindfulness.
- Kooth - A free online service for students to increase positive mental health and network with professionals.



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Sports 4 Life programme mentoring our students during COVID-19

"Although challenging, the Covid-19 lockdown crisis has provided Sport4Life with a unique opportunity to continue engaging with our partners by providing mentoring support to young people. City Academy has been fantastic in facilitating this by helping us to provide structure, guidance and advice to students that allows them the best chance to fulfil their potential" - Lincoln S4L mentor

A message from Mindful Healthcare

"Since September 2019 Mindful Healthcare has been working with City Academy. Mindful Healthcare is an online digital platform working collaboratively with the child, parent and school to support children suffering with anxiety/mental health issues. During these testing times City Academy have remain extremely engaged working with us to give ongoing support to their children, but also new children onto the programme, keeping mental health as a key focus."

COVID-19 Resilience Fund

Birmingham Children's Trust have a funded scheme available to families who find themselves in financial difficulty during this period, where you are able to seek a paid grant of up to £150 for assistance with Food/Rent/Bills/Data/Internet/Phone/Medicine and other essential needs. Our welfare team will be able to provide more information and support you to complete this application, if you contact us on safeDSL@corecentral.academy or safeguarding@city-birmingham.academy.

SEND

The SEND team is continuing to provide support and guidance to students during the closure. If your child is on the SEND register and needs some more additional support, please e-mail Mrs Patel at gpatel@corecentral.academy. Birmingham City Council also continue to work with schools to support students with SEND. Please visit the academy website which has information on how to access support and advice from outside agencies.

Student Welfare

At what is an extraordinary time we would like to remind you as parents/carers that the student welfare team are available on the emails listed below. We are here to discuss any worries or concerns you may have. As we always tell the students, we may not have the answers, but we can always listen and offer support. We are already in touch with some students on a daily and weekly basis. If you feel your child would benefit from a telephone call or an email please let us know.

- Central - safeDSL@corecentral.academy / Phone number: 0121 729 7160
- City – safeguarding@city-birmingham.academy / Phone number 0121 729 7100



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Key contacts

School Reception		Central 0121 729 7160 City 0121 729 7100
SEND	Mrs Gemma Patel	gpatel@corecentral.academy
Safeguarding	<u>Central</u> Mr Thomas O'Brien (DSL) Mrs Rekha Shell-Macleod (Deputy DSL) Mr Wayne Robinson (Deputy DSL) General <u>City</u> Ms Latoya Fulgence (DSL) Ms Sharon Hyde (Deputy DSL) General	tobrien@corecentral.academy rshell-macleod@corecentral.academy wrobinson@corecentral.academy safeDSL@corecentral.academy lfulgence@city-birmingham.academy shyde@city-birmingham.academy safeguarding@city-birmingham.academy
Expectations and Rewards	<u>Central</u> Mr Wayne Robinson <u>City</u> Ms Phillipa Lewis	wrobinson@corecentral.academy plewis@corecentral.academy
Well-Being Team	Ms Beverlie Weston Mr Keanu Thomas-Bartley Mr Ben Walters Miss Grace Miller	bweston@corecentral.academy kthomas-bartley@corecentral.academy bwalters@corecentral.academy gmliller@city-Birmingham.academy
Attendance	<u>Central</u> Mrs Lorraine Nolan <u>City</u> Ms Danique Chedda-Blake	lnolan@corecentral.academy dchedda-blake@city-birmingham.academy



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Star Students

Yabsera Bekele

Whilst learning from home Yabsera in Year 8 has been keeping herself busy by producing incredible pieces of art & poetry!

We hope to see more!

[Click Here to have a look!](#)

Yashvi Shah

Yashvi in Year 8 has also been using her time creatively producing some stunning pieces of art whilst learning from home!

[Click Here to have a look!](#)

Oneisha Brown

Joshua Weunde

Amari Williamson-Medder

These students all happily volunteered their time during the half term break to take part in an ITV News Central program. Fantastic ambassadors!

Stay safe and stay in touch!



David Bailey
Executive Headteacher



Karen Slater
Headteacher

