

16th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to take this opportunity to write to you to address students return to school. Staff at Central & City Academy Birmingham are thoroughly looking forward to welcoming all students back onsite, full time, in September. We hope it will provide them with some sense of normalcy and routine, whilst also allowing them to have face to face learning, socialise with peers in their year group bubble and access an extracurricular offering.

The Senior Leadership Team have been closely monitoring and reading government guidance and are meeting regularly to discuss how the return to school will be managed in light of government guidance, and which measures we will take to keep our students as safe as possible. In this letter we will be sharing with you our expectations for all students when they return to school in September. If government guidance does change through the summer, we will update our plans accordingly and be in touch with you.

Our Central/City Academy Bubbles

As per the government guidance, we will be operating a 'bubble' system. Each year group will be a 'bubble'. This means certain areas of the school will be restricted to each 'bubble' to help stop mixing between bubbles. For example, every year group bubble will be mostly located on a separate floor and have designated toilets. Year groups will have different break and lunchtimes with additional cleaning procedures in between these times.

Uniform

Uniform should be worn as normal. New uniform does not need purchasing in relation to the proposed merger. If your son/daughter has PE they should arrive at school in their PE kit on that day. Uniform can be purchased from Clive Marks (4-5 Three Shires Oak Rd, Bearwood, Smethwick B67 5AX) or from Trutex Erdington (71 High Street, Erdington, B23 6SA).

Equipment

To help minimise contact between students, they will not be able to borrow equipment (pens, pencils etc) when they come into school. We will be providing paper, textbooks, and exercise books.

We require all students to bring the following into school every day:

- Pencil case
- Pencil
- Black pen – plus a spare
- Red pen
- Glue stick
- Ruler
- Calculator
- A highlighter pen
- Ear-phones (with a mini jack for use with computer)
- Rubber
- Protractor
- Hand gel with 60%+ alcohol content
- Tissues
- Water bottle



Return to school

As per our letter dated 19th June 2020 please be reminded that there have been some changes made to the structure of the school day as detailed below:

Newhall site (Years 9,10,11):

- Start at 9am (currently start at 8:30am) – During our COVID adjusted period, Year 11 will need to be on site for an 8:30am start until further notice
- Finish at 3:30pm (currently finish at 3pm)

Langley Walk site (Years 7 & 8):

- Start at 8:30am (no change)
- Finish at 3pm (currently Years 7-9 finish at 3pm and Years 10 & 11 finish at 3:10pm)

We will have a staggered return to school to ensure all year groups return in a safe manner.

Friday 4th September

- Year 11 attend Newhall Street for an 8:30am start.
- Year 7 attend Langley Walk site for an 8:30am start.

Monday 7th September

- Years 9 and 10 attend Newhall Street site for a 9am start.
- Year 8 attend Langley Walk site for an 8:30am start.

School transport information

Thank you to those of you that responded to the recent survey. We will update you on final arrangements nearer the time.

Travel to and from school

When students arrive onsite, they must proceed directly to their form rooms. This is to prevent the mixing of bubbles before school but can only work with your and your child's support. Similarly, departure from school will, and must be, prompt. All students are to leave the site as soon as their onsite lesson or extracurricular activity ends. Again, your co-operation on this matter is essential.

The government advise that public transport use is minimised where possible.

- If your son or daughter travels by public transport he/she must wear a face mask. On entry to the school this face mask should be put away in a plastic bag to minimise infection.
- Entry and exit to the school will be through different entrances for each year group; this detail will be shared prior to starting back.

You can find the latest government guidance on public transport here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>



Term dates 2020-2021		Teacher training days (students not in school)
Autumn	Tuesday 1st September - Friday 23rd October* *Please see details above with regards to different return dates for different year groups. Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th December	Tuesday 1st September Wednesday 2nd September Thursday 3rd September
Spring	Monday 4th January - Friday 12th February Monday 23rd February - Thursday 1st April	Monday 4th January
Summer	Monday 19th April - Friday 28th May Monday 7th June - Wednesday 21st July	Monday 19th April Friday 25th June

Health & Safety

'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it' – we strongly advise that your child has tissues with them at all times. However, tissues and hand gel will also be provided in each classroom. We will minimise the amount of travel around the school. Lessons will take place in classrooms situated along one floor, where possible, students will remain in one classroom while teachers move between classrooms. If your son or daughter moves from one classroom to another, there will be disinfectant spray and hand sanitiser in each classroom. He or she will be able to clean their workspace on arrival. Furthermore, where there is movement this will typically be in the 'zone' for the student's year group bubble. In addition to the intensive cleaning before and after school; school will also be periodically cleaned during the school day to further keep the site as safe as possible.

Illness

If your son or daughter or a family member living with you is ill with COVID-19 symptoms (new continuous cough, or high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) your child must stay at home. You must ensure you book a COVID-19 test for your son, daughter or family member. Please under no circumstances send them into school. The latest government guidance on testing, symptoms, and public health advice can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
If your son/daughter becomes ill whilst in school and exhibits COVID-19 symptoms he/she will be isolated and you will be called to collect him/her.

PE

PE will take place. We want to allow students the opportunity to enjoy exercise as part of their education to promote physical and mental wellbeing. However, to make sport as safe as possible only non-contact fitness activities will take place. If your son/daughter has a PE lesson they should arrive at school in their PE kit. They will be able to go home wearing this and they will not need to change in their school uniform.



Parent communication

We will continue to review our procedures ready for the start of term. Parents will be contacted via text as the primary method but it is also worth checking our Twitter feed and website for updates. Please do ensure we have an up to date mobile phone number on our system. Contact us via email if you are concerned we do not have your up to date details.

As part of our adjusted procedures, parents/carers should ensure they book appointments with school staff. We would discourage parents/carers turning up to school without an appointment unless it is an emergency.

Summer school

We are running a summer school for our Year 6 and Year 7 students. This will take place 8:30am - 4:15pm on 10th - 14th August. If you wish to book a place, please click the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y8jb787k> or email us at Primarytransition@corecentral.academy

Free school meals vouchers

Families entitled to these should have received their allocation for their summer holiday. Please do get in touch with us if this is not the case.

Summer holiday

We wish all of our families a safe and happy summer holiday. There is no expectation of schoolwork being completed during this time but of course students would be welcome to complete independent study if they so wish. Going back over lessons and assignments on Microsoft Teams would be a good place to start for students wanting to do this. The National Oak Academy, BBC Bitesize, and Seneca are other good learning resources. Children who read are also known to be more successful in school and later in life so this should also be encouraged. In previous newsletters we have signposted various agencies that can support families during what may be a difficult time. The 'student wellbeing' section on our CORE Connects website page summarises much of the support that is available for students and families: <http://city-birmingham.academy/student-welfare/>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries. We wish you all a safe and happy summer holiday!



Mr Bailey
Executive Headteacher



Miss Slater
Headteacher

