

22 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer of

September reopening information for Year 8

First and foremost, we'd like to thank you for all of the efforts you have made to continue your learning during this difficult time. We have made over 20,000 safe and well checks, set over 10,000 lessons on Google Classroom and issued thousands of vouchers for students who would normally receive free school meals. We are proud of how our community has come together to do our best to support every member of our school family and hope that this partnership continues into the new academic year.

As you will have seen, the government has instructed all schools to open to all students in September. We believe it is important to reopen so that we can continue to support the education and wellbeing of our students. The longer they are away, the more their ability to learn new things now and in the future will be hampered. We can also help to support our pupils in their recovery from any trauma, anxiety or loss they may have unfortunately experienced over the lockdown period.

In order to keep our staff and students safe, we have put in a number of changes to the school day which we explain below.

- **Bubbles** – Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students will complete all of their lessons in their forms, and remain in their form classrooms for all lessons except practical PE, which will take place outside at a social distance. Students will not come into contact with students from other year groups at all during the school day. Specialist teachers will move between the forms to teach their own lessons so the quality of the education we are providing remains as high as possible. Each classroom has hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes, and movement to breaks and lunches will be managed by staff to ensure social distancing. Students will have their own space in the room that only they will use.
- **Breaks and lunches** - At break and lunchtime, they will be given access as a year group to designated lunch and break areas (both indoor and outdoor) and can mix with their friends whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing. This will, of course, be supervised as much as possible by Academy staff.
- **Adding money for school lunches** – we will not be allowing use of the machine to top up student accounts with cash. We will organise All money must be added through ParentPay – please email Mrs Hill (carole.hill@e-act.org.uk) if you are unable to access your account.
- **Staggered starts and ends to the school day**– We have staggered the start and end of the school day by splitting our morning tutor time. Your child should arrive at the Academy by 8:50am and will be dismissed and walked off site at 15:20. Students will arrive and depart through different entrances and exits to the school building so there will be no crossover between year groups. Your child will be directed to their year group's entry point by staff on duty and clear signage will support this. We appreciate it may be difficult for children to arrive exactly on time but would appreciate your best effort to support our social distancing measures.



NORTH BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY 395 College Road, Erdington Birmingham B44 0HF
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Registration number 652 6376
Registered office address: The Orangery, 28 Headlands, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 7HP

- **Public transport** – please be reminded that students using public transport must wear face coverings.
- **Absence** – Absence must be reported as normal (this is explained in the transition booklet), but please specifically state if there are COVID-19 symptoms in your household as we will need to engage with Public Health England and the Track and Trace programme to minimise the spread of the virus. The government have been very clear that all children will be expected in school to address the gaps in their learning.
- **Equipment for school** – Students will not be able to share resources between themselves so will be expected to bring their own equipment. Students should ideally have two black or blue pens, a pencil, a ruler, a red pen and a rubber. We will not be able to lend stationary as usual.
- **Enhanced cleaning** – Our cleaning teams will be working tirelessly to ensure our classrooms, communal areas and any other areas being used by pupils and staff are thoroughly cleaned.

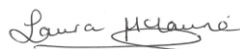
We will also be holding transition days for each year group, so they have an opportunity to come into school and re-adjust to the new measures and the school environment. Only your child's year group and our Year 11 students (who have already been coming into school) will be on site on transition day. The Year 7 into Year 8 transition day will be held on **Friday 4th September**. Your child will need to attend wearing full school uniform. If you have been unable to replace uniform items, there will be no punishment given to your child. Uniform can be purchased from Clive Marks in Boldmere or Trutex in Erdington.

All children will be expected back on site full-time from **Thursday 10th September**.

We have missed the students very much and are looking forward to seeing them all in September. We wish you the very best for the summer holidays and are excited about the plans for the future of North Birmingham Academy. Please note these plans are subject to change depending on advice received over the summer and any adjustments will be published on the website. We also have a more detailed Trust guidance document on the website.

If you do have any questions, please do contact us at school via NBA.enquiries@e-act.org.uk and we will respond as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L McLaurie
Headteacher



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