

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear NBA Family,

**A joint letter from North Birmingham Academy and Birmingham City Council's Public Health Division**

Alongside our colleagues at Birmingham City Council's Public Health Division, we would like to update you on the measures we are taking to keep your child as safe as possible at the academy. Our close links with the Public Health Division mean that we get weekly and sometimes daily information about what is happening across the borough, and we would like to share this information with you.

**An increase in cases across Birmingham**

We know that whilst there is an increase of cases of COVID-19 in Birmingham the virus is mainly spreading between family members and people who live in the same household or through wider social contacts. This means that students and staff are coming into contact with the virus in their daily lives outside the academy. Currently we have no evidence that the virus is spreading in our academy as we have been seeing mainly single cases or a group of cases in a household.

Furthermore, we have been reassured that our safety measures, which include regular and focussed cleaning of the academy, social distancing and ensuring good hand and respiratory hygiene at all times, are proving vital in helping to prevent the spread of infection.

**Keeping our students safe**

To reduce any impact of increased cases in the community, we are:

- Thoroughly cleaning the academy every day
- Keeping the students in 'bubbles' to reduce wider contacts within the academy
- Helping staff and students to socially distance - two metres where possible
- Making it possible for everyone to wash or sanitise their hands regularly
- Encouraging students to use tissues to 'catch it, bin it, kill it', if they sneeze or cough
- Making sure everyone wears a face covering when moving around buildings, if they can
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We hope our safety measures will help to reassure you that we are doing all we can to make our academy as safe as possible for everyone.

**An update from the academy**

We have today been informed that a student has unfortunately tested positive for COVID-19, and is therefore self-isolating for a period of 10 days. Public Health England (PHE) have advised that individuals who have been in close contact with the student must also self-isolate for 14 days as a precaution. Through the arrangement of students and staff into bubbles to limit contact between individuals, we are able to retrace their precise movements and identify and inform the individuals who must self-isolate.



**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

For information, the student who has tested positive for the virus is in the year 10 bubble and will therefore have had no contact with children outside of their classroom bubble or in other year groups. **The parents of all affected students have already been contacted this evening by text message.** PHE are satisfied that as robust safety measures are in place at the academy, we can remain open to all other students and staff.

However, in order to ensure that our students' learning opportunities are maximised, we will be open as usual to all students this week with the exception of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, when the departure times for each individual year group will be as follows:

- Yr 7: 13:00
- Yr 8: 13:10
- Yr 9: 13:20
- Yr 10: 13:30
- Yr 11: 15:00
- Yr 12/13: 15:00/end of their last timetabled lesson (whichever is earlier)

This is to manage staff absences in light of a number of positive cases reported to us over the half term period where staff are still not yet well enough to return to work. We have altered the timetable in this way in order to ensure that the year groups who are going to be sitting exams next year can have as much face-to-face contact with their teachers.

#### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19**

Please be reassured that for most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, because the virus can spread easily, your child must not come to the academy if they have a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a free test which can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. We encourage symptomatic individuals to get tested at the earliest opportunity.

If your child is tested as positive, all household members, even if well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

#### **How can you help prevent COVID-19 from spreading?**

We want to thank you for all the precautions you are already taking as it's making a big difference and is helping to stop the virus spreading. Please help your family, friends or people you work with to understand how important it is for them to do the following:

- Keep a safe distance from others
- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds
- Wear a face covering in enclosed spaces if you can
- No one in your household should leave home if any other person has symptoms
- If you have symptoms, stay at home and book a free test – visit [nhs.co.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) or call 119
- Reduce the number of people you have contact with

#### **Thank you for your support**

We would like to reiterate that the health and wellbeing of your child is our number one priority and that we will do everything in our power to ensure their safety.



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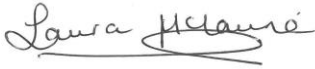
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Thank you for all your support in helping to stop the spread of the virus, and please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher of the NBA family and Hamira Sultan, Consultant in Public Health, Birmingham City Council Public Health Division

#### **Emails for Heads of Year**

Yr 7 – Miss Davies - [Charlotte.Davis@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Davis@E-ACT.org.uk) or Mr Henderson [Sean.Henderson@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Sean.Henderson@E-ACT.org.uk)

Yr 8 – Mr Corfield - [Stephen.Corfield@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.Corfield@E-ACT.org.uk) or Mr Henderson [Sean.Henderson@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Sean.Henderson@E-ACT.org.uk)

Yr 9 – Mrs Sumner - [Angela.Sumner@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Angela.Sumner@E-ACT.org.uk)

Yr 10 – Miss Davis - [Elish.Davies@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Elish.Davies@E-ACT.org.uk)

Yr 11 – Miss Stott - [Anna.Stott@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Anna.Stott@E-ACT.org.uk) or Mrs Parry [Lisa.Parry@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.Parry@E-ACT.org.uk)

Post 16 (including Birmingham City Football Club Academy) – Miss Brown - [Rhiannon.Brown@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Rhiannon.Brown@E-ACT.org.uk) or Mrs Robinson [Samantha.Robinson@E-ACT.org.uk](mailto:Samantha.Robinson@E-ACT.org.uk)



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