

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear NBAfamily

Re: January Re-opening update

I hope my message finds you safe and well, and that you and your family are enjoying a restful break. Following on from The Government's announcement yesterday on when students across the country can return to their schools and academies in January 2021, I am writing to confirm our updated arrangements for the new term. If you'd like to read the full Government guidance yourself, [click here](#)

As you'll know from my letter on Saturday 19th December ([click here to read it again](#)), we had planned to welcome all our Year 11/13 students back on Tuesday 5th January 2021, with all others returning on Monday 11th January. However, The Government announced yesterday that now only our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers should attend during the first week back. If you'd like to check whether your child is eligible to attend [click here](#). To book a space for a vulnerable/critical worker child please [click here](#) no later than Monday 4th January, 6pm.

All other students are asked to stay at home in line with the dates shown below and will be taught remotely via googleclassroom. We know that most students are now very familiar with this system. However, if your child doesn't understand how to access work on googleclassroom, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance. If you'd like to request to borrowing devices/WiFi dongles please [click here](#)

Key return dates

- **From Tuesday 5th January:** vulnerable students and the children of critical workers only. Those with external exams this week should also attend for their exam. If you are not sure if your child has an exam, [click here](#). All other students taught remotely.
- **From Monday 11 January:** Yr 11/13 students return
- **From Monday 18 January:** All students return

Please note that the government is keeping these dates under review, so we will be in touch if anything changes.

Why have we been asked to take this approach in the first few weeks of term?

The Government has implemented a phased return in the first few weeks of term to give secondary schools the time and space to prepare for the rollout of COVID-19 testing. As mentioned in my letter to you on 19/12/2020, we will soon have the ability to test our staff weekly and have daily testing of both staff and students who are close contacts of a positive case within the academy. In addition we are making preparations for all students to be offered two tests (three to five days apart) in the first few weeks of term. To help answer any questions, we have put together a guide to COVID-19 testing for parents and carers which can be found [here](#). The guide contains information on everything from how the tests work to the support our students and staff can expect to receive during testing.

Please note that parental consent will first be sought before any testing begins. The consent form is [here](#), please complete it no later than Friday 8th January (*even if you are not giving consent for the testing*).



NORTH BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY 395 College Road, Erdington Birmingham B44 0HF

T: 0121 373 1647 F: 0121 382 2707 E: NBA.Enquiries@E-ACT.org.uk W: <https://northbirminghamacademy.e-act.org.uk/>

E-ACT 'A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales'
Registration number 652 6376

Registered office address: The Orangery, 28 Headlands, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 7HP

Remote education arrangements for students

We have plans in place which mean that the students who must stay at home for the beginning of term can continue their learning without disruption using googleclassroom. Students will have daily contact with their teachers and will continue to be taught a wide range of subjects in line with their academy timetables where possible. We will be taking a daily register and our teachers will closely monitor progression, adjusting pace or difficulty of work where necessary. Please watch [this](#) or contact your child's Head of Year if you have any questions.

For students entitled to free school meals

Please [click here](#) to book a free school meal whilst your child is working remotely

Ensuring the safety of students and staff in academy

Please rest assured that all our students and staff will continue to have access to the safest possible environment when they return. Our students will continue to be kept within their bubbles, and our COVID safety measures, which include regular and focussed cleaning, good ventilation and ensuring good hand and respiratory hygiene will be reinforced at all times. Public Health England have made clear that our safety measures are proving vital in helping to prevent the spread of infection within our academies.

Who should I inform if my child tests positive for the virus?

The process of notification differs slightly as we near the end of the holidays:

- If your child or someone else within your household tests positive for COVID-19 between now and Sunday 3 January 2021: please follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace and email the details to absent@e-act.org.uk
- If your child or someone else within your household tests positive for COVID-19 from Monday 4 January onwards: please let the academy know by calling 0121 373 1647 or emailing simon.bolwell@e-act.org.uk

I completely appreciate and understand that some parents and carers will be anxious about what lies ahead, and that many of you will be concerned about the safety of your child given the prevalence of the virus across many parts of the country.

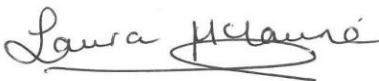
However, we hope that by being able to carry out regular testing from January, we can keep our children safe, in front of their teachers and in education where they have the best chance of fulfilling their undoubted potential.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and ask that you please get in touch with any questions.

As always, please get in touch with your child's head of year if you have any questions or concerns.

Please follow us on social media (twitter = @NBAAcademy, facebook = North Birmingham Academy E-ACT or Instagram = northbirminghamacademyeact)

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Laura McLaurie, laura.mclaurie@e-act.org.uk Headteacher of the NBA family.



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Emails for Heads of Year

Yr 7 – Miss C Davies - Charlotte.Davis@E-ACT.org.uk or Mr Henderson Sean.Henderson@E-ACT.org.uk

Yr 8 – Mr S Corfield - Stephen.Corfield@E-ACT.org.uk or Mr Henderson Sean.Henderson@E-ACT.org.uk

Yr 9 – Mrs A Sumner - Angela.Sumner@E-ACT.org.uk

Yr 10 – Miss E Davis - Elish.Davies@E-ACT.org.uk

Yr 11 – Miss A Stott - Anna.Stott@E-ACT.org.uk

Post 16 (including Birmingham City Football Club Academy) – Miss A Blake Azania.Blake@e-act.org.uk or

Miss R Brown - Rhiannon.Brown@E-ACT.org.uk or Mrs S Robinson Samantha.Robinson@E-ACT.org.uk



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