

18 July 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

As we are now drawing this term to a close we would like to convey some key messages regarding the school closure for summer and the start up in the Autumn term as well as wishing some colleagues who are leaving us farewell.

- Chris Seager, Deputy Headteacher after 10 years of commitment to NBA
- Eleanor Cossey, English teacher, moving abroad to teach after 12 months at NBA
- Hannah Banks, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Humanities, moving on after 12 months at NBA
- Jan Thornhill, has been clerical assistant, Exams & Data Officer, currently Attendance Officer 24 years of commitment to NBA
- Sandi Pretty who is retiring after 6 years of commitment to NBA in her role as HR Manager
- Steve Underwood, PE teacher 6 years of commitment to NBA

We also welcome our new staff who will be introduced to you properly in the first Headteacher's newsletter of the new academic year 2022/23.

The Academy will **close** at the normal time on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July**.

The Academy term dates for the new academic year are on the website and can be found here <https://northbirminghamacademy.e-act.org.uk/useful-info/term-dates/>

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> are teacher training days however **we will be expecting all new year 7 students to arrive at the Academy by 11.00am on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September** for a half day induction with their tutors and to gain orientation of the Academy before the remainder of the Academy start the following day. **Year 12 students are expected into the Academy on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 13.20pm** (no lunch will be served) for their afternoon registration and induction sessions.

**All students will commence at the normal time on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September** and so must be in the Academy by 8.30am in order to start morning registration by 8.40am.

In order for us to make some important changes affecting the smooth running of lessons and for maximum gained learning time, we have altered the structure of the day. The new structure enables us to have one sitting for break and one for lunch for all pupils (lunch is split into two but during the same 1 hour block). During lunch time, students are either eating lunch or having their Personal Development lesson with their tutor (KS3/4 at different times).



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There are a number of reasons for this change but one is that given all that has passed with Covid and the clear need for our students to engage with key issues around Personal Development including mental health issues, anxiety control, citizenship, British values, social and moral education - we felt it necessary that students have a dedicated 30 minutes a day in order to address and discuss these key issues. During the morning students will be registered and have a structured tutorial time including attendance and conduct rewards and discussions, key important messages, leadership and mentoring time and literacy sessions and so form a core part of students learning.

This is why it is imperative that students are in the Academy by 8.30am in order to be ready for tutorials at 8.40am. Attendance and Punctuality are a key priority for the Academy, and this will only gain momentum and purpose in the Autumn term. As educators, Parents and Carers we need to work together to ensure your children are in education every day. We are pushing for 100% attendance for all students in the first half term with big incentives and rewards for those students who can obtain this which is perfectly realistic for every student (barring significant illness or injury) to achieve. At the Academy we can provide your child with the support and education they need to become successful, well-rounded individuals.

Finally, we will be running an extensive number of after school and some lunchtime clubs for all students from Tuesdays -Thursdays every week from September. It is our expectation that every single student picks one club to participate in each term and we ask for your support in ensuring your child does so unless they already have an extensive after school programme elsewhere. The enrichment clubs are good for reducing anxiety, developing social skills, learning new skills and building confidence and so are a vital part of a full and rounded education offer. We also intend on running a number of educational trips next academic year and we are hoping to communicate on some key ones in the Autumn term so that you can prepare financially to support your child so that they have at least one educational trip per Academic year. As ever the Academy will support students and families where possible so that no child misses out.

I have now been at the academy for several weeks and one area that keeps popping up as a source of criticism by parents I have spoken with is the ineffective communication between the Academy and home.

We recognise there is much to be done in this area and we would like to work with you in order to get it right and improve our partnership for the benefit of all students.

If you would be so kind as to spend just a couple of minutes completing this survey on communication I would be very grateful <https://forms.office.com/r/C6VT8iw31x>

I will take the feedback and create a communication response to all parents outlining the common issues and the solutions we are putting forward.



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All that remains now is to wish you a safe and enjoyable summer and I very much look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year.

Best wishes



**Michelle Scott**  
Headteacher



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