



Dear Parent/Carer

As you know it is our intention to constantly drive progress forward at Great Barr Academy. Our primary purpose is to ensure that all students have the best possible opportunity to be happy and successful. As part of this commitment to you as parents and carers of our students we are writing to share some exciting and important developments.

Change to morning routine: 'Edge' lesson from 8.55am

To ensure that we can deliver an engaging curriculum which enables all learners to develop skills of enquiry and exploration we have made the following changes. All students will participate with our new Edge curriculum, this curriculum is planned to develop interpersonal social skills, they will explore a range of topics that support their whole development. This vital aspect of the curriculum is taught within a form group setting and under our new plan will form the introduction to the school day. In this lesson time which begins at 8.55 the form tutor is able to greet students and be a regular point of contact. This enables them to identify any potential issues relating to equipment and uniform and ensure they are sorted before their learning commences.

In order for there to be a purposeful start to the day Edge will begin promptly at 8.55 and all students are expected to be on the school site no later than 8.45 so that they have time to make their way to their Edge lesson. We are aware there are some issues with the buses and we are working closely with West Midlands travel, the LA and Department for Education in order to address these concerns.

New Bus Terminal

In conjunction with the above we have organised for a bus terminal to be built at the front of the school site and work will commence on 28th October 2019. Plans can be seen on school site and we welcome you to make an appointment to view these plans if you wish to do so.

This development will alleviate some of the student traffic at the shops and buses both before and after school assisting in the swift and orderly movement of students. Can I please take this opportunity to remind you as parents to encourage your children to make their way home from school as soon as they have finished their studies or extra-curricular activities. Unfortunately, we have a small number of children who are not making their way home and are involved in anti-social behaviour in the community. We are taking a very hard stance with these young people and we are working closely with the Police to ensure the safety of all our students and our wider community. I hope that there will be no need to contact you in the future if your child does not heed the warnings given.

Students not to go to shops at 8.40am

In order to ensure that students are on time for the start of the school day we will be stopping students going to the shops near school at 8.40am. We would urge you to support us with this as punctuality both to school and within school is an important aspect of any student's success.

Change to break (brunch) and lunch times.

We have also made the decision to split our previous break time and designate this as a Brunch session. This will ensure that this is a quality break time. Half the academy at a time will be served. This will shorten waiting times and enable us to offer more variety of food at both Brunch and Lunch times. Lunch will also be split so that again half of the academy will be on lunch break whilst the other half continue in lessons. There will continue to be a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities at lunch time so that students can involve themselves in additional activities to support their overall success.

All students will be fully briefed on the changes and new timetables will be issued during Edge on Monday 4th November 2019.

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The changes are detailed below.

Great Barr Academy	
Academy Opens	8.00 am* <i>Please note that staff are on site but formal supervision does not begin until 08:30</i>
Arrival in School	No later than 8.45.
EDGE	08.55 – 09:20
Period 1	09:20 – 10:20
Period 2/BRUNCH	Years 8, 11 and Sixth Form: 10:20 – 10:40 BRUNCH 10:40 – 11:40 Period 2
	Years 7, 9 and 10 10:20 – 11:20 Period 2 11:20 – 11:40 BRUNCH
Period 3	11:40 – 12:40
Period 4/LUNCH	Years 8, 11 and Sixth Form: 12:40 – 13:15 LUNCH 13:15 – 14:15 Period 4
	Years 7, 9 and 10: 12:40 – 13:40 Period 4 13:40 – 14:15 Lunch
Period 5	14:15 – 15:15
Voluntary Enrichment and Intervention	15:15 – 16:30* *Voluntary for students according to schedule and availability.

In addition to the above please could you ensure that your child has the correct footwear and an adequate school coat to ensure that they are able to keep warm and dry. All students should have a rucksack type bag in which to carry the necessary equipment required for their continued learning. If you would like to discuss any of the above further please do not hesitate to contact your child's head of year or Mr C Randle – Assistant Head Teacher responsible for Behaviour.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Williams
Acting Headteacher