

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well during this current time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have provided for your child in relation to the home learning that they been completing while the academy has been closed.

This letter contains a large amount of information. It has been divided into three parts, you may find it easier to read each part separately.

PART 1

At the beginning of May we asked parents of year 10 and 12 students to provide feedback about the proposed plans from the Government about schools reopening to some students on June 1st. The responses were mixed, but overall the majority of parents felt that this date was too early. We have taken your feedback and this letter will set out the plan to support your child with their learning for the remainder of this term.

Social Bubble Groups

The plans set out below have been developed in conjunction with keeping both pupils and staff in the same social bubbles while on school site. This significantly reduces the amount of contact for both pupils and staff while on site and follows safety guidelines set out by the government.

It is very important that your child does not wait around in the community for other groups of pupils before and after school. This will reduce the impact of creating social bubbles.

Friday 19th and 26th June

All pupils in year 12 will be contacted by a member of staff in order to provide a supportive academic review meeting. This contact will be by phone in the first instance. An alternative time will be arranged if this is not deemed to be suitable. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to take part in the academic review meeting. The meeting will cover the following aspects: Wellbeing and Health, Academic Progress and supporting home learning. The conversations will take up to 30 minutes.

Pupils will be contacted for their meeting with an Academic review tutor via email with a suggested time.

Wednesday 1st July Thursday 16th July

Year 12 students will be invited into school on Wednesdays or Thursdays for 2 hours per subject over the 3-week period to provide face to face support and guidance. The days that they will be required in will be explained to them by their Academic Review Tutor and rotas emailed out to students.

Further independent study will continue to be set. For morning sessions students should arrive at 9.50 for a 10am start and 12 midday finish, and for an afternoon session, they should arrive at 12.25 for a 12.30 start and 2.30 finish. **If students only have a morning or afternoon session they should just**

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arrive for that session, if they have a morning AND afternoon session, they will have 30 minutes for lunch when they will be able to utilise Great Hall, adhering to social distancing. Students should bring in drinks and a packed lunch if they are in for the whole day.

When pupils are on site they will be grouped into teaching pods of a maximum of 10 students allowing for sufficient social distancing between students in classrooms. Students will arrive at different times on a rolling timetable. It is important that they do not attend at a different time to the one they have been allocated, as they will not be allowed onto the school site. These times will be agreed with your child during the academic review meeting. Pupils will be reviewing part of their home learning and preparing for

PART 2

Travelling to and from School

Government guidelines on travel will be adhered to at all times. The national guidance on travel is included here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

The main points are summarised below:

Where travel is necessary, consider whether children could walk or cycle, accompanied by a responsible adult or carer, where appropriate.

If you are the responsible adult or carer travelling with children, please help them follow this guidance, wear face coverings, minimise the surfaces they touch and maintain their distance from others, where possible.

Arrival and departure at School

Pupils will arrive at an agreed time which will be staggered. Pupils should enter the school down the main school driveway as usual. Your child will be given a start time before Monday 29th June. This will be staggered between 8.30am and 9.30am

Pupils will be greeted on the main school drive by staff who will direct them to the relevant classroom. Pupils will be registered in their class in groups of 10 maximum. Pupils will work in the same classroom all day with the appropriate social distance guidelines being followed at all times. At some point in the day and weather permitting, pupils may work outside in their social bubble class group of 10. Pupils are encouraged to bring a hat and sun cream.

Pupils will depart school at staggered times in order to support their journey home in relation to social distancing. Your child will be informed of their finish time before 29th June, this will be staggered between 12.50pm and 1.50pm.

Timings of the day

Pupils will take part in two sessions of 120 minutes. There will be a break during the day of 20 minutes. Break times will be staggered in order to maintain social bubbles and ensure that social distancing is being maintained.

Pupils will stay in the same room, using the same desk each day. Pupils will also work with the same small group of staff each day that they are in school. This reduces contact with people and adheres to guidelines set out by the Government.

Behaviour and Uniform

Pupils and staff will be expected to adhere to 2m social distancing at all time, when both travelling to and from school and when on school site. The expectations for pupils conduct and behaviour will be shared with all pupils at the start of each day, these behaviour expectations will be to support the safe operation of the school during COVID-19. If pupils do not follow the behaviour guidelines set out, they will not be welcome in school – this is in order to keep everyone safe. These pupils will be asked to continue to work from home following remote learning.

Pupils must wear their school uniform. I ask that you send your child to school wearing as a minimum: their school skirt or trousers; shirt, plain black leather shoes and school tie (adhering to the school policy). Pupils do not have to wear their blazer. We strongly suggest that you wash your child's clothes after they have attended school each day.

PART 3

Washing Hands

Pupils will have the opportunity and be expected to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day. The first opportunity to wash hands will be after they arrive at school in the morning. All classrooms will have extensive hand sanitising resources for use throughout the day by both pupils and staff.

Equipment

Pupils must bring their own equipment to school. This should be a minimum of a pen, pencil and ruler and calculator.

Food and Drink

Pupils are strongly encouraged to bring their own lunch and drink into school each day. A limited offer of a snack bag will be available for pupils who receive free school meals. This is in addition to the voucher system already being distributed to families.

Cleaning of school Premises

At the end of each day all rooms that have been in use will be cleaned in line with the Academies COVID-19 cleaning guidance set out by the Government. [COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#)

Pupils with an EHCP and Vulnerable children

The Government published guidance on 15th May 2020 that stated “vulnerable children and young people across all year groups continue to be expected to attend educational provision where it is appropriate for them to do so.” We strongly recommend for Year 10 pupils to begin to return to on-site provision who are a Looked After Child, have an Educational Health Care Plan and those who have been assessed as vulnerable (allocated a social worker), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending.

What happens if your child shows symptoms of COVID-19

If a pupil demonstrates any symptoms of Covid-19, they will be directed to go to a designated area within the school where they will only be in contact with a member of staff wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). If your child displays any symptoms of Covid - 19 while at school, you will be contacted and you must collect them from the site immediately. We will not be able to allow the pupil to travel home alone. First aid for any other illness or ailment will operate in the usual manner.

Where a child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their social bubble class will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

If a pupil begins to demonstrate symptoms of Covid-19, they must isolate for 14 days. I would ask that you inform us of this immediately by contacting secretariat@greatbarr.bham.sch.uk if your child begins to isolate.

Attendance at School

We strongly encourage that your child who is in year 10 or 12 to attend, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions). You should notify the school as normal if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and can discuss this with you.

Parents will not be penalised for non-attendance at this time.

Conclusion

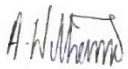
Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We are very aware of the concerns that some parents may have in relation to sending their child back into school. We are also aware of how important year 10 and 12 is in relation to next year being an examination year. This is why we are focussing our attention on these two year groups.

If you decide not to send your child back into school we ask that you contact the school on the allocated day that your child is meant to be in school to inform the school of their absence. I hope that the information in this letter and any further attached guidance is clear and has been of help to you. For further guidance on children returning to school please follow the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please stay safe and well in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully



A Williams
Acting Headteacher