



**CITY
ACADEMY**

Langley Walk, Birmingham, B15 2EF

0121 729 7100 • enquiry@city-birmingham.academy

Headteachers: Karen Slater & David Bailey

 @COREeducate  @COREeducate

8th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We write to update you on the latest in school and to remind students and families of the importance of engaging with all forms of learning throughout what continues to be challenging times for everyone.

Blended learning

As you will know, students have at different times needed to work remotely. This has been for two reasons: 1. Students in needing to self-isolate due to positive cases of COVID within their year group and 2. Staff absence levels. Whilst we have been communicating with parents/carers via text, we would like to take this opportunity to explain these decisions in detail. **If you have not been receiving text messages from school over the last week, it is vital you complete the data sheet you will soon receive or contact reception to check your contact details are up to date.**

First and foremost, it is our absolute intention that students have access to high quality learning at all times. It is clear already across Birmingham and the rest of the country that 'blended learning' is becoming common place. In other words, it is quite possible that the combination of working in school and remote learning will be typical for months to come. We will always prioritise and do our best to ensure students are learning in school, with their timetabled teachers, accessing their usual curriculum. The challenges we have faced over the first few weeks due to high staff absence levels have meant this has not been possible every day. We completely understand the disruption students being at home causes families and the concerns some parents/carers have around remote learning not being as effective.

If and when we do need to send students home for remote learning, we will continue to ensure the learning via Teams is of a high quality. Teachers teach their lessons online as if they are in the classroom. This proves particularly effective when students are fully engaged by logging on at the right time, communicating via the chat option, and completing assignments. If students are having issues accessing Teams or do not have access to IT/internet, please inform us via itsupport@corecentral.academy. We will endeavour to resolve the issues as soon as possible. We have quality assurance processes in place for learning in school and remote learning.

At the time of writing, we are pleased to say all year groups have returned to school and work in lessons is focused and purposeful.

Tier 2

We have previously informed you that we are currently in tier 1 restrictions which means all members of our community must wear face masks in communal areas. Students and staff may also choose to wear face masks in the classroom if they so desire. On a daily basis there are a number of students who are forgetting their mask and needing one to be issued by school. Students who continually forget their mask will be charged for replacement masks.

We think it would be helpful at this stage for us to share the Department for Education's (DfE) tier 2 plan. Tier 2 asks secondary schools to adopt a rota system to limit on-site attendance. If we were directed to adopt tier 2 measures, we would share the final rota with



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parents as soon as possible. Whilst we would make final decisions once we are informed by the DfE, an example of such a rota is as follows:

Year 11 – Attend every day

Year 10 & 8 - Attend school on week 1 of the timetable, learn from home on week 2

Year 9 & 7 – Attend school on week 2 of the timetable, learn from home on week 1

Public Health

We have been in regular contact with Public Health England in the past few weeks and continue to review our risk assessment on a daily basis. The key measures we have in school to help reduce the risks are:

- Masks worn in all communal areas; please ensure your child has their face mask every day and stress the importance of using it in a safe way in terms of putting it on, taking it off, and storing it.
- Students and staff sanitise/wash hands upon arrival and regularly throughout the day.
- Students are 'bubbled' in year groups; each year group has their own zone in school, separate entrances/exits to school, their own toilets, and dedicated Year group break and lunch times.

A letter from Public Health regarding testing can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child/letter-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child>

Enrichment

Our after-school programme is focused currently on accelerating the progress of students in Year 11 to ensure they achieve the best results possible at the end of this academic year. We are continuing to ensure all students have as many enrichment opportunities as possible through engaging in community projects as much as possible. Our Year 8 students are currently excelling on the Hope Project demonstrating their creative skills through sport and the arts; they are proving to be wonderful ambassadors for the school!

Parking

Please can we remind parents they must not park on double yellow lines outside of school to collect children. It is safer for everyone if parents arrange to pick up from slightly down the road to avoid congestion directly outside of school. This is to ensure the safety of all of our community, particularly the children crossing the road.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Bailey
Headteacher

Miss Slater
Headteacher