



**CITY
ACADEMY**

Langley Walk, Birmingham, B15 2EF

0121 729 7100 • enquiry@city-birmingham.academy

Headteachers: Karen Slater & David Bailey

 @COREeducate  @COREeducate

Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now well into the first term of our new City Academy, we are pleased to share an update about how the merger is progressing. We are delighted to have everyone united as one school, already developing our own City culture and identity under a new school brand. Students are showing openness and respect towards their new classmates, friendships are being forged and City school-life is bedding down.

As you will know, our ambition in merging the schools was to develop an outstanding school to inspire, enable and enrich the lives of every one of our students. Our aim is to give them strong foundations and a wide range of opportunities to build the confidence and skills they need to lead happy, fulfilling and successful lives.

Already, we are seeing our combined staff team is providing students with greater access to specialist support in every area of the curriculum, pastoral care and personal development. By consolidating the two schools, we can now be more ambitious in our goals for the future: widening the curriculum offer, offering more choice and a higher quality of educational experience.

As we adjust school-life to meet the challenges presented by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we are considering carefully how best to progress our plans for the newly merged City Academy. There are some points we would like to highlight to you now.

Year 9 students – move to Langley Walk site from January 2021

Bringing students together under one roof is an important step towards cementing the one-City culture we are pleased to already see emerging. To this end, students in Year 9 will move to join those from Years 7 and 8 at the Langley Walk site from January 2021. To further cement a one-City identity, and to help families with the transition, CORE Education Trust will be giving each student a new blazer and a City Academy polo shirt for physical education. A new school tie was distributed to all students free of charge earlier in the term.

A more detailed letter is being sent to parents of students in Year 9 with further details about changes next term.

It is hoped that students in Year 10 will follow next – and whilst we are still working through the planning in terms of timing, we aim for this to be in the next four to six months.

Timings of the school day

To bring consistency to the time of the school day at both sites, we are making some adjustments. From January, the following times will apply:

- Years 7, 8, 9 and 10: 8.30am to 3.00pm
- Year 11: 8.30am to 4.00pm



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Mini-bus shuttle service

We recognise that while the school is operating across two sites some families have used the mini-bus shuttle service we have been able to offer. Regrettably, we are only able to offer this until the end of the term. Unfortunately, we have found it is taking a considerable amount of time (about 90 minutes at both ends of the day) to transport students between the two sites, and the journey is being compounded by rush hour traffic in the city centre. Students potentially experience quite a wait to catch their bus, with some missing form time as a result. As an alternative, we will provide a supervised walk between the two sites at the start and end of the day from January, to help with home-to-school journeys. This will help reduce the wait time for students and provide greater certainty about the length of their journey.

If the move of Year 9 students to Langley Walk, or changes to the shuttle bus service, causes you significant difficulties, or if you have wider concerns about the school's location more generally, please do get in touch with us to discuss what further assistance we might be able to provide.

The Senior Leadership Team are working closely with Saiqa Liaqat, the Trust's Director of Education, who is currently based at Langley Walk and providing on the ground support to us during the transition period.

While it will take time for us to turn our vision into reality, as funding is sought and we work through the challenges of COVID-19, the move of Year 9 students is a positive next step in our plans. City students are already starting to experience the educational and pastoral gains we hoped to achieve by merging the schools; we remain absolutely committed to ensuring they can do so in the kind of outstanding building you would expect from a CORE school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during the merger and your co-operation during what has been a challenging time at school as we adjust to life under the coronavirus pandemic.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Bailey
Headteacher

Miss Slater
Headteacher