



Langley Walk, Birmingham, B15 2EF

0121 729 7100 • enquiries@corecity.academy

Headteacher: David Bailey

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2nd January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I trust you and your family are well and have enjoyed the holiday so far.

As you will no doubt be aware, the Education Secretary has announced additional changes to the reopening of schools next term – further delaying the planned start date for the majority of secondary school students while testing processes are put in place.

As such, the arrangements at City Academy are as follows:

- **Vulnerable children and children of key workers** will be welcomed back on site as planned on **Tuesday 5 January**.
- **Students in years 11**, who are taking exams in the summer, should return to school on **Monday 11 January**, with remote learning on Microsoft Teams in place from 5 January.
- **Students in years 7 to 10** should return to school on **Monday 18 January**, learning remotely from home until then.

I appreciate this news may cause you concern but I would like to reassure you that your child's online education will be as close as possible to any normal day in school: students will register at the same time and have form time every day, they will then follow their usual timetable, with lessons streamed live and teachers available for questions throughout.

CORE Education Trust is committed to ensuring every student has access to a laptop, and you should already have made arrangements to borrow a device for this period, should one be required. If you still need assistance or have any technical issues please email enquiries@corecity.academy

If your child is entitled to a free school meal and they would like to pick up a food parcel, please email enquiries@corecity.academy

Testing

As we have done since September, we will do everything we can to help keep staff and students safe, and in the classroom. Following the government guidance, my team and I have already begun to develop plans for testing and will be using the early days of term to fine-tune them. Here's what we know so far about the rapid testing programme recently announced by the government:

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- Students who are identified as a close contact of someone who's tested positive will be eligible
- All staff will be eligible
- While testing will be optional, we'll strongly encourage staff and students to take part
- We won't ask your child to participate in testing without their consent (or yours, as appropriate)
- Those students returning to school first will be offered testing first
- If someone tests **negative**, they'll still need to follow our social distancing and hygiene measures, which are to wash hands on entry to the school building, remain in year group bubbles and to wear a face a facemask when moving around the building and in communal areas
- If someone tests **positive**, we'll ask them to self-isolate in line with government guidance

I will be able to share more details in the coming days including a consent form and an instructional leaflet.

Students have responded very well to the COVID arrangements we have introduced this year - I am confident they will react maturely to this latest measure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and co-operation during these challenging times, and to wish you and your family a safe and happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Mr Bailey
Headteacher