



King Edward VI Aston School
Frederick Road
Birmingham B6 6DJ

School Tel: 0121 327 1130
Sports Hall Tel: 0121 327 6434
KESSP – Trinity Road Tel: 0121 554 4036

enquiry@keaston.bham.sch.uk
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26th August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Return to School Arrangements – September 2020

With the start of term nearing we wanted to write to provide some further detail regarding the arrangements in place to ensure a safe and effective start to school.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back into school next week with Year 7 & 12 returning on Thursday 3 September and all years from Friday 4 September. We hope that the students are also looking forward to a return to school, seeing their friends and teachers again and taking a big step back towards normality.

We can confirm that whilst we have made some changes and some lessons may have a slightly different feel, we will be offering a full and rich curriculum and our students will continue to access all of the lessons that they have previously enjoyed.

The information below outlines the steps that we have taken to prepare for a safe return of students and provides details of what the school day will look like for our staff and students.

Firstly, we feel it is important for you to understand the national expectations that the Government have of us for reopening school in a safe manner:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Changes to the school day

You will understand that the most significant challenge for schools nationally, particularly secondary schools because of the specialist nature of teaching, is reducing the contact and movement between pupils. Much time and effort has been invested in achieving this and, consequently, the following measures will be in place:

Times of the day

- Pupils should arrive by 8.30am and be in their classrooms by 8.40am.
- School will finish at:
 - 3.25pm for years 7, 8 & 9
 - 3.30pm for year 10 & 11
 - 3.35pm for years 12 & 13
- Sixth Form students can arrive at 11.00am if they have independent study periods 1 & 2. Sixth Form students can also sign out and leave the school if they do not have a lessons 5 and 6 or period 6.
- At the start of the school day pupils should arrive using the following gates:
 - Year 7, 8 & 9 Longdon court gate

Headmaster: C.Parker, *M.Hist, MBA, NPQH*

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Registered Office: Foundation Office, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UD. Registered in England and Wales





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- Year 10 & 11 Albert Road gate
- Year 12 & 13 Frederick Road gate
- At the end of the school day pupils not using the Green Bus should exit using the following gates:
 - Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 Albert Road gate
 - Year 12 & 13 Frederick Road gate
- The mosque car park or Aston Park should be used by parents collecting their children. Parents are requested not to congregate outside the Albert Road gate.

Lessons

- The school day will be changed and will consist of six, fifty-minute lessons (excepting periods 5 & 6 for years 10-13) with a ten-minute transition period at the end of each lesson to allow teachers to move between areas of the school, thereby allowing pupils to remain in year group bubbles for the majority of the school day. Every year group will be in an 'area bubble' of classrooms, water bottle filling station, toilet block and cleaning team.
- The 'area bubble' will only be left by a pupil group if they have a lesson in a practical subject such as Computer Science, Music, Art, Design Technology / Food Technology and PE where a specialist teaching room is required.
- If pupils have Games (Monday year 10/Tuesday year 9/Wednesday year 11, 12 & 13/Thursday year 8/Friday year 7) they can come to school in their school games kit due to the limited availability of changing facilities.
- All year groups will have a weekly, face-to-face assembly in their year group bubble.
- Sixth Form collaboration lessons will be based at Aston and be either undertaken remotely or by Aston staff.

In terms of safety, this is an important adaptation; it will result in students accessing far fewer classrooms, coming into contact with a smaller number of their peers and fewer staff each day. It will also vastly reduce our movement around the school building. Lesson changeover is currently a very busy and congested time, this step while not removing entirely the likelihood of busy corridors will reduce this dramatically.

Learning

In addition to their subject exercise books and folders, your child will need to bring a fully equipped pencil case, full water bottle and a reading book to school every day.

Staff will be working with pupils to increase their ability to self-regulate their learning. This means increasing their ownership of what they are learning in lessons and for homework. During the ten minute lesson changeovers pupils will be required to recap the previous lesson's learning, read for pleasure or plan for the forthcoming lesson using curriculum summaries provided by subject teachers. Homework will predominantly be set on Teams.

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Hand and respiratory hygiene

We have taken a number of steps to ensure that our school is clean and that we can develop an even stronger hygiene culture amongst all students and staff. This is an essential component of our safe operation and to reduce the risk of any transmission.

We have increased our cleaning capacity and have cleaning staff to work throughout the school day. Whilst this will help, we also wish to stress again the need for each individual to support this. Reducing the number of surfaces touched and having good hand and respiratory hygiene will all help keep the school clean and safe.

An important part of our safe operating systems is that all children develop and maintain good hand hygiene. To support this we have hand sanitiser dispensers outside every classroom and in key communal areas. It is essential that on arrival in each room, each child sanitises their hands. Students are welcome to bring their own personal hand sanitiser if they wish to.

Face coverings will be required to be worn in corridors and communal areas other than classrooms. Face coverings will be optional for pupils and staff in lessons. We do ask that you ensure the mask is sensible and appropriate for school. It should be relatively plain without motifs and symbols.

Lunch times

Lunch time will be staggered to reduce contact between year groups.

- Year 7, 8 & 9 will have lunch at 11.50am until 12.30pm
- Year 10 & 11 will have lunch at 12.50pm until 1.30pm
- Year 12 & 13 will have lunch 12.50pm until 1.30pm but students can also purchase food between 10.30am and 11.30am if they have an independent study period

The school canteen will be open for 'grab and go' food at breakfast (8.00am – 8.30am) and at lunchtime however, pupils in all year groups will be encouraged to bring a packed lunch and snacks to school to reduce the need for them to use the school's catering facilities. It will be possible to pre-order food from the canteen.

Curriculum Enrichment Afternoons (Week 2, Thursdays)

On these afternoons pupils in Years 10-13 who go home will be allowed to do so at the start of lunch at 12.50pm.

Pupils in Years 7-9 who go home will be allowed to do so after lunch at 12.30pm.

Curriculum enhancement activities will be run in mixed year groupings. Groups will be consistent for the whole school year.

Detentions

After school detentions will be held one night each week for pupils in Years 7-11.

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Arrangements for detentions for pupils in Years 12 & 13 will be put in place by the Director of Sixth Form as required.

- Year 7 Monday
- Year 8 Tuesday
- Year 9 Wednesday
- Year 10 Thursday
- Year 11 Friday

Safety measures – how you can help

We all have a part to play keeping school a safe place, you can also help by:

- Not sending your child to school if they, or someone in your household, has symptoms of the virus. Please notify the school immediately in these circumstances.
- Taking part in the NHS Test and Trace process if your child develops symptoms so that cases can be identified quickly - this means, you should arrange for them to get a test and let the school know the results. You can also call 119, which is the number for the NHS virus testing call centre.

It is essential that our students understand our expectations, changes to our working systems and new rules that are in place to support everyone. They need to abide by the new systems at all times. We would really appreciate it if you can spend some time reiterating this to your child along with reading the guidance that will be sent to them via their school email. The alterations that we have made are essential changes to ensure that our school can open and deliver school-based learning safely. Pupils that do not conform to expectations or disregard new rules and systems jeopardise the safe running of this school and put all of us in our school and community at greater risk but if we all play our part then school will be a safer place.

Thank you for your support and understanding in our work in re-opening school in a safe and effective manner. We are very much looking forward to having school fully open again and having our students back with us.

Yours sincerely

Ms S Lewsey

Deputy Headteacher

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