



**KING EDWARD VI
ASTON SCHOOL**

Educational excellence for our City

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**KING EDWARD VI
FOUNDATION
BIRMINGHAM**

Educational excellence for our City

3rd January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. We will begin a phased return to school tomorrow for students and it will be wonderful to see staff and learners return to the school, ready for the challenges of 2022.

We start back in week of two of the timetable. In light of governmental guidance released at the weekend, all students will now be required to wear masks in classrooms and communal areas. This policy is undergoing continual review and we will notify you in the weeks that follow of any changes as they are released. Please ensure that your son is adequately equipped with a suitable face covering. A face mask will also be required on school buses, public transport and our A-level shuttle bus to local collaborative schools.

As with all sectors of the economy, it is highly likely that we will face some short-term staffing shortages this term, however we will continue to do everything possible to keep the boys at school for full days of learning. I firmly believe that our boys are most effectively educated at school. We will continue to seek short-term supply teaching solutions to keep classes running and if necessary (and possible), we will merge some classes in line with government guidance.

Details of the staggered start to the new term (to allow for on-site lateral flow testing) are below:

Years 7 – 9

- All students in years 7 – 9 will return tomorrow, Tuesday 4th January. Those who have previously given consent for lateral flow testing will be tested during the course of the day.
- The remainder of the week will continue as normal with on-site learning for years 7 – 9.

Years 10 – 13

- Tuesday 4th January will be a 'learn from home' day whereby students will be taught remotely. They will need to be logged on to Teams for a form tutor registration at 08:40 and their lessons will follow their timetable for the day so students will need to log on to Teams for each lesson.
- All Year 10 – 13 students are required on site on Wednesday 5th January. Those who have given consent will be tested during the course of the day. The remainder of the week will continue as normal with on-site learning.

In terms of standard school operations, we plan to offer as many of the usual Aston opportunities for the boys as possible. We will attempt to ventilate rooms naturally to reduce possible transmission and encourage the boys to spend their breaktimes in the fresh air. We will also monitor the levels of carbon-dioxide in teaching spaces across the school.

Headteacher: Mr M.D.Brady BA (Hons) MA Ed.

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- PE and games classes will continue as usual, although boys will be expected to wear face coverings in the changing rooms. Sport and exercise are vital for the boys' physical and mental health.
- We will continue to run cross-year group House competitions, however any spectators for indoor sporting events will be required to wear a face covering.
- Our intention is to continue with sports fixtures with other schools, however case numbers in relevant year cohorts will continually be assessed both at Aston and with competing schools to check on the suitability of the fixtures progressing. There will, undoubtedly, be some cancellations, however if a fixture is cancelled, we will do everything possible to find an alternative date later in the year.
- Educational visits will continue to operate where possible.

Please could I ask that any requests for leave of absence for the boys are kept to a minimum. We will of course continue to support medical appointments and university interviews, however other requests for leave are likely to be declined.

I would also like to remind you of two important items in our last communication with you in December.

- There are now tighter restrictions on mobile phone use at the school. Students in Years 7-11 in particular will need to be aware that these devices are not be used at all from 8:40am-3:35pm on site. More details can be found in our last newsletter.
- A simplified approach to effective behaviour management is also now in place. After-school detentions will operate on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The boys will all be briefed about the new changes in assemblies over the next two weeks, however please check our [last newsletter](#) for more details.

With my best wishes to you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Brady
Headteacher