

Beacon Hill Academy

High Arcal Drive, Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 1BP
T: 01902 677754 E: info@beaconhillacademy.org.uk
W: www.beaconhillacademy.org.uk
Principal: Sukhjot Dhami



02/03/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Return to School

I hope that both you and your family are well. My staff and I are looking forward to welcoming our learners back to the academy.

I understand this is both an exciting and potentially nervous time. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that every member of staff across the breadth of the academy and our Trust has worked diligently to prepare for a 'safe' reopening. Many of the processes and procedures which were put in place for our September return still stand.

Following the letter from Jo Higgins, Chief Executive, please see below the details of the Mass Testing roll out. The dates outlined below for Test 1 are for Lateral Flow Testing only. **On this day, learners should attend the academy for their test and return home to complete distance learning.** Learners will return to school the next working day after Test 1. This is the **only** test that they will return home after. Tests 2 and 3 will see learners remain in school, providing their test does not generate a positive result.

We will publish the Year 7 & 8 schedule next week once we have reviewed the first week of the mass testing process. Please see below the dates and times of when learners in year 11, 10 and 9 should attend the academy for their first test.

Week 1 - 8th March - Return to School Plan.

Year	Test 1	Return	Test 2	Test 3
11	05/03/21 (Fri)	08/03/21 (Mon)	10/03/21 (Wed)	15/03/21 (Mon)
10	08/03/21 (Mon)	09/03/21 (Tue)	11/03/21 (Thur)	16/03/21 (Tue)
9	09/03/21 (Tue)	10/03/21 (Wed)	12/03/21 (Fri)	17/03/21 (Wed)
8	18/03/21 (Thur)	19/03/21 (Fri)	22/03/21 (Mon)	25/03/21 (Thur)
7	19/03/21 (Fri)	22/03/21 (Mon)	23/03/21 (Tue)	26/03/21 (Fri)

Year 11: Friday 5 th March		Year 10: Monday 8 th March		Year 9: Tuesday 9 th March	
11A	9.30	10JTH	9.30	9WKI	9.30
11B	9.50	10AED	9.50	9JFO	9.50
11C	10.10	10RTU	10.10	9KFE	10.10
11D	10.30	10IBE	10.30	9YVO	10.30
11E	10.50	10AWA	10.50	9MBR	10.50
11F	11.10	10FBO	11.10	9BRL	11.10
11G	11.30	10CBR	11.30	9MPA	11.30
11H	11.50	10TSW	11.50		
11I	12.10				
11J	12.30				



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Mass Testing:

The academy has worked alongside the Trust to prepare a detailed plan, outlined above, to comply with the government request of mass testing all learners three times before the commencement of the home testing programme. Learners will be able to return to face-to-face teaching following the first negative result.

When learners undertake their first test, they must be present in school for their allocated time slot. The staggered testing schedule will enable us to comply with social distancing rules. Learners can attend testing in non-uniform but **must wear a mask/face covering** and will enter via the main reception. Once registered in the hall, small groups will then be sent to the Drama Studio (our mass testing site). After the final sections of registration and testing, they will then immediately depart school via the main gate. The test result will be sent via a text message from the NHS once all processes have concluded. If you haven't received your child's results by **4pm** please contact school via helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk. Please note: for any learners who unfortunately have positive results we will contact parents/carers directly via telephone.

It is strongly **encouraged** that ALL learners take part in our testing process and, in doing so, enable the community of Beacon Hill Academy to play their vital part in the mass national testing programme and thereby helping us overcome the pandemic. Please can you ensure you complete the consent form for testing ([click here](#)). **Learners who have no prior consent will not be tested.**

Free School Meals

As learners will only be in school for a portion of the first week back, we are unable to provide a full weekly food box. However, on the days your child is **not** in school we are able to provide you with a free school meal (packed lunch) should it be required. Please order in advance by emailing helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk with the subject line "**free school meal pack**" and the name of your child and their year group by **Thursday 4th March**. The lunches must be collected from the school reception on the days they are required.

Entrances

The academy will continue to operate multiple entrance points - learners are to access the school via the entrance that they used before Christmas. **The only change to this is for Year 8, who will now arrive through the main gate, off High Arcal Drive.** Please watch the following Vodcast if your child is in Year 8: <https://youtu.be/-NPIKWc8K4w>

Further Safety Measures:

Masks

In addition to the use of masks in indoor communal areas and corridors, **learners and staff will also now be required to wear masks during lessons.** This decision follows the latest government guidance to reduce the risk of transmission. In accordance with our dress code, learners' masks should be a plain colour. Should any learner or member of staff have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, then they would of course be exempt from this requirement. Please note that parents and carers should provide their child with a mask from their first day back at school.



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If a COVID-19 case emerges during the school day:

Despite the comprehensive testing regime, if a learner were to show symptoms of COVID-19 during a lesson (persistent coughing, high temperature), the processes previously documented apply:

1. Contact with parents/carers will be made
2. The learner will be required to be collected immediately.

It is important that your child follows the government guidance of self-isolating for up to 10 days, or until they have received a negative result.

Learners are reminded to adopt good respiratory hygiene: *catch it, bin it, kill it*. Where possible, learners and staff are to keep a 2-metre distance from each other.

Catering Facilities / Breaks and Lunchtimes

The school catering service will operate as before Christmas when learners return to school full time. Learners can bring packed lunches but these must be consumed in the designated areas for eating. Learners must remember to bring sufficient water for each day or purchase bottled drinks from the canteen. Fizzy drinks are not permitted.

Teaching and Learning

In terms of practical based subjects (Music, DT, PE, Drama, Dance etc.) these will resume but will operate within the strict parameters set out in the guidance provided by the DfE and other relevant bodies. Please note that due to increased demands on staffing through testing and learners returning to the academy, **there will be no 'live lessons' from the week beginning 8th March for any year group.** All lessons from this point will be designated as 'pre-recorded.' Upgrades for **Year 11** will resume **Monday 8th March** - learners will be issued with further details upon their return to the academy.

VDE / Supporting Expectations

We continue to expect the highest standards of our learners. Learners must remain in their zones and the usual academy rules continue to apply. We are proud of the kind and respectful conduct that the significant majority of our learners displayed in the runup to Christmas and we look forward to continuing to work with families to allow learners to thrive. However, any learner who intentionally compromises the health and safety of others in the revised operational environment will be dealt with in accordance with our behaviour policy.

Uniform

As per government guidance, it is important that learners continue to attend the academy in their full uniform and follow our expectations for uniform:

- **Full school uniform must be worn at all times.** The school uniform code clearly states the requirements of Beacon Hill Academy. We ask for your support in ensuring that uniform expectations are upheld and that learners do not contravene these stipulations.
- **On the day(s) your child has PE they should attend school in their full PE kit.** Learners must also wear their Beacon Hill Academy blazer over the top of their PE kit. This



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will negate the need for learners to use changing rooms and again mitigates the risk of any cross contamination between year groups.

- Learners are to **wear formal, smart, black leather or patent shoes**. Learners are not permitted to wear trainers **unless on a day they have PE** – this can only be with corresponding full PE kit. Learners are not permitted to wear black leather trainers, including those without markings, as school shoes. **School shoes should have no visible branding** (whether the branding is a different colour or black) including Nike ‘ticks’ or sporting logos. If the learner chooses to wear black ballet pumps, these should be plain black without any accessories, such as studs. **Boots are not acceptable** (a boot is defined as anything that touches or comes above the ankle bone).
- Jewellery is limited to one small ring of religious significance; one small plain metal stud in each ear lobe; no facial piercings are permitted e.g. nose studs. Stretcher style piercings are not permitted in any circumstances. Jewellery cannot be worn during PE lessons. If jewellery is worn for medical reasons, suitable medical evidence identifying the reasons for this must be provided to the school.
- Hair accessories such as bows, flowers and wide bands are not permitted; thin ‘Alice bands’ may be worn. Only natural hair dyes are permitted. Hair should be not shorter than grade 1 and no design lines/patterns are allowed. Plain black headscarf (if worn).
- Learners are not permitted to wear nail varnish and acrylic/false nails must be removed for school.
- Hoodies are not permitted in school.

Attendance

Government advice states that all learners must return to school. Beacon Hill Academy therefore expects learners to return in the phases outlined above - we will be operating our usual attendance policy. The attendance officer must be informed if a learner is self-isolating or has symptoms of COVID-19. Please call 01902 677754 and use the “Report an absence” option to inform us of this.

Parental Concerns

Unfortunately at this point, we continue to be unable to welcome parents/carers on to academy site. If you have any concerns, these must be addressed via the telephone or email via our dedicated Helpline – helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk. I know that some parents/carers and learners may be anxious and I hope the level of detail contained within this letter helps communicate the lengths my staff and I continue to go to in order to safeguard the entire Beacon Hill Academy community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr S Dhami
Principal



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