



04/06/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Plans for Summer Half Term 2

I write to inform you of our plans to allow our learners and staff to return to their normal classrooms and curriculum after half term.

As per the Dudley Academies Trust 'COVID-19 Response: Roadmap out of Lockdown (Secondary)' document shared with you on 14th May 2021, we are hopeful that from 7th June 2021 we will be able to implement our plans to return to a normal curriculum.

Where possible, teaching staff will return to their original classrooms for most lessons. Importantly, this will allow learners to benefit from the personalised learning environments each classroom offers and bespoke curriculum resources.

Due to the extensive building program in place to upgrade the facilities for our learners, there are some classrooms in the main building which will be re-roomed. We are acutely aware that our Year 7 learners have not yet been able to explore our full school site and enjoy the full complement of the facilities available. As such, we would like to reassure parents/carers that they will be accompanied by our prefects for the first week. Tutors will carry out a tour of the academy the first day back after half-term.

While this is certainly a step in the right direction towards 'normal', we will be keeping some measures in place in the short term to help protect our learners and staff. Namely, we will be maintaining the **staggered break time** and locations of breaks and lunches:

- Year 10 – Playground
- Year 9 – Playground
- Year 8 – Science area / Field
- Year 7 – Tennis courts

At lunchtimes, we will be continuing with having staggered lunch. Lunchtimes will once again be in the Hall and the Gym and all learners will stay within their year group bubble.

- Year 8 (gym) & 10 (hall) – First Half
- Year 7 (gym) & 9 (hall) – Second Half

Similarly, we will be keeping the separate year group entrances to help reduce congestion (Please note, a staggered end to the day will remain):

- Learners will enter and exit through the same entrance which they do currently, and these will be open from 08:15am to allow learners to have a staggered entrance on site.
- 08:40am – Registration
- 14:45pm (Year 7 and 8) – End of school
- 14:50pm (Year 9 and 10) – End of school



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Finally, a new measure we are introducing to reduce congestion is a one-way system throughout the various corridors and stairwells. We will be clearly labelling each stairwell with the direction of travel on all floors so that learners are aware of these restrictions. While we would obviously like to remove all restrictions, we need to do so in a phased manner, which is why we are temporarily introducing this system.

We also feel that it is important for the welfare of all staff and learners to continue to wear masks when walking around the academy in all communal spaces. Whilst the government guidance states that masks no longer need to be worn in class, we are continuing to allow learners to do so if they wish.

As I'm sure you can understand, all of these plans are based on the proviso that there is no change in Government or DfE guidance that prevents us from enacting them. We want to ensure we make the right decision and it is therefore increasingly important that we remain cautious towards easing restrictions within our academy, taking a proportionate account of the risks involved. Throughout this pandemic, we have always put the wellbeing of learners and staff first – rest assured, this position will not change.

Should you have any queries regarding any aspect of these plans, please do not hesitate to contact us via helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr S Dhami
Principal



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