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**THE BULWELL  
ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Back to School Expectations & Staggered Return Dates 2021**

### **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

#### **Resetting our Expectations**

A huge thank you for all your support in what has been a very difficult year. We have made it to the end of 2020 and can only hope that 2021 proves to be a better year all round.

As you are all aware, at The Bulwell Academy, we take your children's education seriously and expect the best of everybody. We firmly believe that being ready to learn is crucial to ensuring no time is wasted in lessons. Teachers must be allowed to teach, and students allowed to learn.

To ensure every second, of every lesson counts, I am writing to give you advance notice of our plans, to **reset our expectations** in respect to uniform, classroom learning equipment, PE kit and behaviour from January 2021.

The information in [The Bulwell Academy Expectations](#) document will guarantee that all students have a positive return to school and can get down to learning from the outset. We will be explaining the new expectations to all students throughout the first week back and would value your support with this and ask that you share this information with them prior to their return. From Monday 11 January, all students will be expected to fully understand the new expectations and will know the consequences of disrupting learning.

We will of course be continuing with our Covid risk assessment and students will remain in bubbles. However, in order for Year 10 to have increased access to ICT, **Year 11 will move to the Science block and Year 10 will move to BF block**. All other year groups will remain in the same block.

We do expect all students, unless exempt, to bring their own face masks and I would ask for your support in ensuring this happens. We have recently found ourselves handing out more and more masks and this cannot continue. Students who persistently do not bring their own mask going forward will be sanctioned accordingly.

We will be reopening the PE changing rooms and therefore the expectation is that all students will attend each day in full school uniform and bring with them their full PE kit on days when they have PE.

**All students are expected to be in full uniform on their return to school.**



## Return to School: Staggered Dates

You may have seen the various announcements from the Department for Education over the last couple of days, in which the government has advised a staggered start to the new term in January 2021, with some students returning on 5 January and others working remotely at home until 11 January.

I recognise many of you will be frustrated at this news, but I do believe that one of the main reasons for a staggered return is to try to halt the possible rise in infections after Christmas and, for that reason, I think it is only right that we are cautious.

After discussions with senior colleagues today, the start of term will be as follows:

**Post 16 and Year 11:** Return to school on Tuesday 5 January. Vocational exams are planned for January and are taking place as normal. It is therefore essential that Year 11 and Post 16 attend school from Tuesday 5 January.

**Years 7 to 9:** Remote learning from Tuesday 5 January (work will be set via ClassCharts); return to school Monday 11 January

**Year 10:** Remote learning from Tuesday 5 January (timetable for live lessons will be sent out on 4 January); return to school Monday 11 January **except** for those students studying Hair & Beauty and BTEC Sport (see below).

- Hair & Beauty students **must** attend school on Tuesday 5 January for a revision session from 12.30pm to 2.30pm **and** Wednesday 6 January from 10am for revision session prior to exam on the same day
- BTEC Sport students **must** attend school on Friday 8 January for a revision session from 9am to 12pm prior to exam on Monday 11 January
- All Hair & Beauty and BTEC Sport students **must** attend the revision sessions prior to their exam. This is a final exam which counts towards the students' final grade.

## Coronavirus Testing

The government has also confirmed that all secondary schools and colleges in England will have access to coronavirus testing from the first week of January. The tests will be free, regular and rapid, but they will be undertaken with your consent on a voluntary basis. There is much planning to be done around this and I will write to you again in January with more detailed information.

***Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to your continued support in 2021 and wish you all an enjoyable, if somewhat quieter and different Christmas.***

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Strong  
Principal

