

SQUIRES AVENUE
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**THE BULWELL
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

4 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Arrangements for the return of Year 8 March 2021

I hope this letter finds you all well. Can I please once again thank you for the support you have shown the school in the last few months of lockdown. It has not been an easy time for any of us and we have very much appreciated your ongoing support.

Following the government's announcement last week, we will begin to bring students back into school from 8 March. However, their return will be staggered in order for us to carry out lateral flow Covid testing as per the latest government guidelines.

Wednesday 10 March - Testing

Year 8 students wishing to have the Covid Lateral Flow test and for whom we have a consent form, will have been sent a letter inviting them into school at a specific time during the day in order to have this test. They will be met by staff and escorted to the Technology area, where we have our testing centre already set up. *Once they have had their test, they will be escorted off site and allowed to return home.*

Remote learning will continue that day with all students expected to participate as normal, unless in school for a test.

Thursday 11 March – return to school

All Year 8 will be expected to return to school, by **Squires Avenue top gate** please.

8N should arrive at 08.45

8G should arrive at 09.45

This will enable us to speak to students in half year groups and explain our new increased expectations. Given that students have again had a prolonged period out of school, we cannot afford for lessons to be disrupted and the focus will very much be on ensuring that high quality learning takes place in every lesson from the very start. All students will be expected to be in full school uniform. Enclosed is a leaflet that highlights our uniform expectations. Also, refer to our website, where there is detailed information regarding all our expectations.

Friday 12 March Onwards

Staggered starts and ends to the day will continue and Year 8 will arrive at **the top gate on Squires Avenue by 8.40 and then line up in the Technology yard ready for an 8.50 start**. All students will be expected to be on time each morning. Regular lateness to school will be sanctioned. **Students will leave by the same gate at 2.50pm.**

All students will be required to wear full uniform. This will be checked every morning during line up.



PE lessons will be as normal, and students will be expected to bring their PE kit with them on days that they have PE.

Classrooms continue to be rearranged to ensure that, where possible, all students are forward facing and be in strict seating plans. In order to minimise student movement and year groups mixing around the school each year group will continue to be in their 'bubble' as previously. Year 8 will continue to be taught in E block. Teachers will continue to move between classrooms.

We are aware that during this lockdown, students have not all accessed the same number of live lessons and have completed varying amounts of work and that gaps in knowledge and understanding have arisen. We have therefore made some changes to teaching groups, taking into account the gaps in learning, which we have already noticed. We hope that these new groupings will enable staff to tailor their lessons more closely to the learning required and enable any gaps in learning to be quickly filled. All students in all groups will be expected to work hard from lesson one. We cannot afford to not push them all.

All students will be provided with a pencil case and equipment; this includes pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, highlighter. This will be theirs to keep and should be kept with them. Students will not be able to share equipment and whilst there will be spares in the classroom for emergencies, using these will add an additional risk of transference.

All students should have a rucksack style school bag, in which to carry their belongings to and from school. In addition, all students should have with them a reading book. During lockdown we have introduced morning reading sessions, which have been very successful. These ensure a calm start to each day and also have shown to increase students' literacy levels over time. These sessions will be rolled out to all on return. This does mean that the role of the tutor will change slightly and that your **first point of call should always be the year manager, with whom the majority of you already have a very positive working relationship; this will be Ms Jones for Year 8.**

Whilst this term has required the school to be closed for the majority of students, from March attendance will be mandatory. The school will be following the Department for Education advice and will use all available sanctions in the event of non-attendance.

Year 8 cannot afford to miss a day. Every minute of every lesson counts for them. We cannot see into the future and cannot predict what it holds. Students should therefore ensure they make the most of every lesson and really push themselves going forward. It is down to them to do the best they can and of course we will support them throughout.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Mason back into school. We do recognise what a difficult time it has been for him. However, there is much to look forward to and feel positive about.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns at all. We need to continue to work together to support your child and ensure they settle back in very quickly and focus on their learning. The next few years for your child are vitally important and every lesson really will count.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mrs Strong'.

Mrs Strong
Principal