



Noel-Baker Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers

As you know, we have been focusing for some time on how to ensure that our school can safely open to all pupils in September - something we are all so much looking forward to. Now that the government has published its guidance for schools, we are in a position to update you on our plans.

The first thing to say is that we are absolutely delighted the government has said all pupils can come back. We have learnt a lot in lockdown about how to deliver virtual education, and families and staff have been outstanding, but children need the routine of normal school life and they also need to see their friends and teachers. It is vital that we get pupils back to school in September, and the government has made attendance compulsory.

Having already done a lot of preparation, we are in a very strong position for the autumn term. There are some significant changes to normal school life which I outline below but every child will have access to full time education and the full school curriculum. We have made the conscious decision to go above and beyond the minimum government guidance to make our environment as safe as possible for your children and our staff. Here are the main ways in which we will be establishing a safe return to school for all children:

1. It is the government advice that all children should walk to school if it is at all possible. If this is not possible then they should consider cycling. If neither of these options is possible then students might have to take public transport. In this case they will be expected to wear a face mask and we have systems in place at school for their management.
2. School will start at **different times for different students**, but everyone will be supervised to wash their hands thoroughly upon arrival. Students **must arrive for the start of their morning assembly and roll call**. Students will be escorted into school a group at a time by staff. There will be separate entrances to the building for each year group. Once pupils are in school, they will be encouraged to wash and sanitise their hands regularly, including before and after they eat and on leaving our site.
3. Students will be placed in a **protective bubble**. Bubbles will not come into prolonged, close contact with each other, which will help keep the school safe. At KS3 this means that students in year 7, 8 and 9 will be in the same group for all of their lessons; each year group will have its own dedicated team of teachers and support staff. At KS4 this means that students in year 10 and 11 will be in the same group for all of their English, Maths, Science and PE lessons but not for their humanities and options lessons.

4. There will be significantly less movement within the building as we will **keep students in one place** as much as possible and ask staff to travel between classrooms. For example, in KS4 students will only move in order to access specialist teaching rooms such as Art and DT, in KS3 students will only move to access PE lessons.
5. There will be **separate break times and separate lunchtimes** to help reduce contact between students. This will mean that some bubbles will have a break at the same time as other groups have lunch, but we are breaking our outside space into zones so that year groups do not mix. This means that students **will only be able to purchase hot food at lunch time**. Limited break time snacks will be available to purchase from an outdoor tuck shop.
6. The Academy will provide every child with the stationery and equipment they need to access lessons. In order to reduce the risk of surface transmission students **should not** bring anything other than a water bottle and packed lunch (if appropriate) to school, but this can be brought in a **backpack**
7. Uniform requirements will return to normal. However, in order to reduce contact risk we will not be using the PE changing rooms. This means that **on days when students have PE they should attend school in their full PE uniform** and will remain in their PE uniform for the day. PE lessons will take place outside wherever possible and it is advised that a waterproof jacket is worn in inclement weather. A full uniform list is attached to the end of this letter.

To explain these rules to children and implement our plans effectively we will not open to all year groups at once in September. Instead we will re-open gradually with all children being back in full time education by Wednesday 9th September. Details of when the academy will re-open for your child are overleaf.

Every child, and every home, has had a different experience with lockdown and home learning. Whilst we know the majority of families will be delighted that schools are reopening, there may be some parents or pupils who feel anxious about returning: if this applies to you, please do not suffer in silence. You should contact us as soon as you can and we will work with you to ensure you feel reassured that all your concerns have been addressed.

In addition to the safety measures set out above, we are well-prepared in terms of securing the wellbeing and academic progress of pupils – both those who have not been able to return to school this term and those who will be taking important public examinations next year.

We recognise that there will be learning gaps to be addressed when the pupils return and have adjusted our curriculum and teaching plans for the autumn term so that everyone has the chance to catch up. We will also ensure there is time devoted to the emotional wellbeing of pupils as well as adequate time for the transition elements our new year 7s did not have the opportunity to experience and enjoy. Information regarding year 7 form groups and form teachers will follow separately to this letter.

We will, of course, also need your help and support to keep school safe as we return to school. If your son or daughter, or somebody else in your household, has coronavirus symptoms, they should stay at home until tested. Likewise, the government guidance says that if there is a confirmed case at school, then we should work with the relevant health authorities to ensure that everyone who was in close contact with them when they were infectious is notified and self-isolates.

In light of this, we are refining all of our processes, systems and procedures. More details of these will follow and we will post copies of all amended policies and systems on our school website.

Should your child need to self-isolate in the autumn term, or should local or national lockdown measures be imposed, learning resources will be immediately available via the Academy website, and we will accordingly make contact with all parents to advise of the arrangements for these. We are working on a new section of our website where all arrangements for September and the details of all contingency plans will be published. As soon as this section of the website goes live we will inform parents.

There have been a number of recent enquiries regarding end of year reports for students. Our policy is that student assessment and progress data is available to students and parents on Go4Schools throughout the year and therefore end of year reports are not provided. This continues to be the case for this academic year.

The summer term has been long and tiring for families and staff, but it has also been inspiring and uplifting. The whole community has pulled together to ensure pupils felt safe and supported, and we have shown just how much can be achieved in the most difficult and challenging of circumstances.

On behalf of all staff, we want to thank you for everything you have done to support your children's success and our school over this period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Donaghy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Ann Donaghy
(Headteacher)

Key Information for September:

When will my child return to school?

Year Group	First Day Back
7	3 rd September
8	9 th September
9	8 th September
10	7 th September
11	4 th September

Please note there will be no PE taught on your child's first day in school in September – they will therefore be required to be in full uniform.

What are the timings for the school day?

All students will have five one-hour lessons, a half hour PSHE lesson, a twenty-minute break and a half hour lunch break each day. Please see the school website for a detailed breakdown of the timings of the school day for each year group.

KS3:

	Morning Assembly and Roll Call (including compulsory handwash)	First lesson	Finish time
Year 7	09:05	09:25	15:45
Year 8 and ACE	08:15	08:35	14:55
Year 9	09:45	10:05	16:25

KS4: Y10 and Y11

Day	Morning Assembly and Roll Call (including compulsory handwash)	First lesson	Finish time
Year 10	09:30	09:50	16:10
Year 11	08:30	08:50	15:10 or 16:10 depending on option subjects taken and which compulsory catch up lessons students are timetabled in to. Exact timings will be confirmed to year 11 students and parents on their return in September.

Face Coverings

Government guidance stipulates that face coverings **MUST** be worn at all times by students if they are travelling on public transport to and from the Academy.

At present face coverings are not compulsory in schools but this is constantly under review.

Face coverings for staff and students are optional.

Parents/Carers Visiting School Site

During the COVID-19 pandemic parents/carers are not permitted on the Academy site and parents and carers are asked not to congregate outside the academy in large groups. We recognise that year 7 parents may want to drop off and pick up their child on their first day. We are putting together measures to allow this to happen safely. Further information will come out to new year 7 parents once these arrangements are finalised.

If for any reason you need to speak with a member of staff please contact the Academy reception by phone or please email enquiries@noelbakeracademy.co.uk . Please note that anyone who arrives to site without a confirmed prior appointment will not be admitted.

Uniform and Equipment

Students are to attend the Academy wearing full Academy uniform.

Our uniform is:

- ✓ Plain long or short sleeved shirt – white;
- ✓ Academy clip-on tie;
- ✓ Academy blazer – grey;
- ✓ Plain, business cut black trousers (no skin tight trousers or leggings) or Noel-Baker Academy skirt;
- ✓ Plain, sensible black shoes.

On days with PE timetabled, students are expected to wear full PE uniform.

Our PE uniform is:

- ✓ Academy polo top, Academy reversible games top or plain blue round-neck t-shirt (**this must not be branded**);
- ✓ Base layers can be worn underneath the Academy polo top;
- ✓ Plain navy/black shorts;
- ✓ Plain navy or black tracksuit bottoms;
- ✓ Waterproof sports jacket;
- ✓ Appropriate PE Trainers.

On the days when students are in PE clothing they **MUST not wear hoodies, leggings or any other unsuitable items**. Blazers or coats can be worn over the PE kit to keep students warm on days when it is cold.

NB – Any students not wearing the correct uniform or PE kit, for example footwear (shoes) or correct PE top will be expected to borrow these items from the Academy just as they are expected to borrow standard uniform items on other days.

All items will be washed daily after use and the shoes if borrowed will be treated with a hygienic spray after each use.

Failure to wear the borrowed items will result in an internal exclusion (refusing a reasonable request).

SEND support

The Inclusion Team will be contacting parents/carers next week to outline the support that will be on offer and what provision will look like from September.

What support is there available to me and my family?

We recognise how important mental health and emotional wellbeing is to the lives of our whole school community. If you would like mental health and wellbeing support for your child or family then please access our school website. Under 'Support' you will find links to a range of external services to support all aspects of mental health. These are just some of the external services that are signposted on our website;



Kooth.com is a free online Mental Health and Wellbeing resource for children and young people aged 11 to 25 in Derby and Derbyshire that requires no formal referral, instead only requiring the user to set up an account on the website. Available 365 days of the year via mobile, tablet and desktop devices from 12 noon to 10pm Monday-Friday and 6pm-10pm at weekends, the service provides access to accredited counselling support, peer support via online forums and relevant articles detailing a variety of topics.



Young minds are the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health. Their website offers a parent helpline for those needing support. Parents Helpline – call 0808 802 5544. Text



the YoungMinds Crisis Messenger on 85258.

Emotionallyhealthyschools.org provides resources and signposts to emotional health and wellbeing services across the region to support young people.



Bridge the Gap is a non-profit organisation supporting child mental health online and locally in Derby. They support the mental health of children, parents and teachers. Call 01332 869417.



Sunshine-support.org do a regular 'cuppa and a chat' online and provide independent information, advice and support to parents/carers and professionals of children and young people with special educational needs.



Build Sound Minds Derby and Derbyshire provide a new comprehensive early intervention offer to children and young people aged 0-17 who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health difficulties. They offer one-to-one support, group work, telephone support and a digital offer. You will find parent and young people referral forms on the website - services.actionforchildren.org.uk/derbyshire/build-sound-minds