



16th July 2020

Dear parent/carer,

As we approach the end of the summer term, I wanted to provide you with an update on our plans for when all students return to Ark St Alban's Academy in September 2020. Over the past few weeks, in light of new guidance, we have worked hard to ensure the safe return of all our staff and students from September. To ensure that guidance is shared effectively, and everyone is confident and comfortable with our new ways of working, we have 4 days of training for our staff followed by a staggered return to school in the week beginning 7th September.

Key dates to note are;

Tuesday 1st September – Friday 4th September is Staff Inset

Monday 7th September Y7 start time 8.15
Y12 start time 8.45

Tuesday 8th September Y7, start time 8.15
Y11, start time 8.25
Y12 start time 8.45
Y13 start time 8.45

Wednesday 9th September **All year groups** Y7 Start time 8.15
Y8, Y9, Y10 & Y11 Start time 8.25
Y12 &13 Start time 8.45

Please note that these dates may differ from other schools in Birmingham. We have designed our plans to ensure we have time to implement any new guidance that is issued during the summer holiday and to complete any extra staff training that may be required.

Bubbles

Year groups will operate as 'bubbles' (eg. Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11 & 6th form) and the mixing of bubbles will be restricted as much as possible. Teachers will maintain a social distance from students, wherever possible and classrooms will be arranged in order to minimise contact between students, e.g. desks are facing forward. Students will have minimum movement around the building and will be encouraged to maintain social distancing during transitions, breaks and lunchtimes.

Arriving and leaving school

The time our students arrive to school will be slightly staggered to prevent bubbles mixing with each other. Each year group has also been allocated a separate entrance and exit which is listed in the table below and will be clearly signed for students upon their arrival in September.

Year Group	Start time	Entrance/exit	Dismissal time
Y7	8:15	Main entrance (facing the building lined up on the right)	3pm
Y8	8:25	Main entrance (facing the building lined up to the left)	3pm
Y9	8:25	Angelina Street Portacabin entrance	2.55pm
Y10	8:25	Angelina Street Astro turf entrance	3pm
Y11	8:25	Stanhope Street (opposite St Albans Church)	3pm
6 th Form	8:45	Main entrance	3.10pm

For Year 9, 10 and 11 this is a change to their usual entrance/exit to the school. Please contact the academy in September if you wish to gain greater clarity on what this will look like.

Curriculum

All pupils will continue to be taught the full range of subjects, we will ensure that extra teaching is provided in reading, writing, English, and maths where needed, and we will do everything we can to support pupils who may need help to catch up.

Hygiene and cleaning

Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the school and we will make sure that children wash their hands often. The school will have enhanced cleaning arrangements. Frequently touched surfaces, items and toilets will be subject to a strict cleaning rota.

Travelling to and from school

Pupils should walk or cycle to and from school wherever possible. If using public transport, they must follow current government guidance, such as wearing face coverings – under current guidance these should be removed when they arrive at school.

Lunch times

Lunch breaks will be organised to prevent children mixing with others from outside their bubble. All FSM children will be provided with a packed lunch. Non-FSM students will need to bring in a packed lunch or will have the option to pay for one. There is an expectation that every child will bring in a reusable water bottle which can be re filled during the day.

PE and Sport

To support physical health and mental wellbeing, students will take part in PE and sport, however contact sports will not be permitted and we will try to hold most sporting activities outside where possible. On days when students have PE timetabled they will be required to come to school in their PE kit on that day as there will be no changing facilities provided.



School trips

There will be no trips or educational visits throughout the autumn term.

Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear a clean uniform every day, and their PE kit on the day they have PE.

Students will be spending most of their free time outside and it is therefore important that your child attends school with a waterproof coat which has a hood. Mr Hoban has researched some affordable options and I've added the links below.

<https://www.blacks.co.uk/kids/074891-peter-storm-kids-packable-waterproof-jacket-black.html>

https://www.amazon.co.uk/REDCAMP-Waterproof-Multifunctional-Lightweight-Reusable/dp/B07LDW61WW/ref=redir_mobile_desktop?ie=UTF8&aaxitk=rdw8H005iT0SCdoeUX8UeA&hsa_cr_id=2502179010202&ref=sbx_be_s_sparkle_mcd_asin_o

Attendance

Attendance at school will be compulsory, and parents/carers who do not send their children to school may face fines.

We will make sure that everyone fully understands the new routines that we will all need to follow. We will also put in place plans to continue with home learning in case there are any situations in which schools have to close again.

We will all still have a role to play to stop the spread of infection and we must all continue to follow the NHS guidance.

If any student has symptoms of Coronavirus, however mild, **they must not come to school and will require a test.** All the information about what to do if you have symptoms is available the Government website

here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If a student presents symptoms of Covid in school, they will be isolated immediately. We will then contact parents/carers to pick the student up and get them tested. The results of the test are key for us in safeguarding everyone so it is imperative that these tests are undertaken.

Visitors to the school

External visitors will not be allowed on site. Parental contact will need to be made via email, telephone or student planners in the first instance.

This has been a very unsettling time for everyone and we want to ensure that all our students enjoy their time at school when they return. We know that some may be anxious about their return to school, some may have had relatives who have been ill with the virus, others may have been bereaved. We will do our very best to make sure that all students are supported and enjoy returning to learning at Ark St Alban's. Please do let us know if your child might need some extra help when they return.



We really appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. We are proud of our students and all the hard work they continued to do when learning at home. It has been wonderful to have students from Y10 & Y12 back in school over the last few weeks, and we are looking forward so much to having all students back from September.

I would also like to say a fond farewell to our Principal Mark Dalton who will be leaving us at the end of August. He has been appointed as the Headteacher Designate for Christ Church Secondary Academy which is currently under construction in the parish of Yardley Wood. We wish him every success in his new role and hope to forge strong working partnerships and continued friendships across the two schools.

Finally, Ark St Alban's eagerly awaits the arrival of our incoming Principal, Guy Rimmer, who is looking forward to meeting you all. Our staff and school leaders have been working hard to ensure that his transition will be a smooth and seamless one. We are all looking forward to welcoming him to our school and supporting him to lead the school through its next phase of growth and development providing the best education possible for our students to flourish.

If you need any further information, please let me know.

In the meantime, I hope you have the chance to enjoy the summer.

Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth Clewlow
Senior Vice Principal