

Queensbury School

Wood End Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B24 8BL
Telephone: 0121 373 5731
Email: enquiry@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Website: <https://www.queensburysch.com>



Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: September 2020

The school will be **opening fully** from September 2020. Staff are very much looking forward to seeing the students and we wish to thank all the parents for their contribution and flexibility in these challenging times. From our point of view, you have all been front line heroes supporting the country like the Key workers.

We will be looking to have all students back in school based on the legal Department for Education (DFE) guidance with students working in **key stage bubbles**. These will be:

1. **Key stage 3** – Years 7,8 & 9 (100 Students) **(5 days per week)**
2. **Key Stage 4** – Years 10 & 11 (60 Students) **(5 days per week)**
3. **Key Stage 5 / Sixth Form** – Years 12, 13 & 14 (90 Students). **(4 days per week** – Sixth Form students to have Personal development day / Study day at home)

RETURN TO SCHOOL

- Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September 2020 - **Training Days (All staff)**
- Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September 2020 - New Year 7 Transition and assessments **(ONLY NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS)**
- Monday 7th September 2020 – **All students to return**
- Classes **6.6D** and **6.7D** are timetabled to have their personal development day on Monday, they will therefore be returning to school on **Tuesday 8th September 2020**.

Risk assessments will be published before September on our COVID 19 web page and further guidance is also located: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>.

The school will be in contact with Public Health England should we have any localised outbreaks of COVID 19 and we will also be keeping track of the R value within the region. Dr Justin Varney (Public Health England) has been giving regular updates via Microsoft TEAMS to all Special School Head teachers.

Staff will wear PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) when working with some students and we will be looking to maintain social distance when possible. Some parts of the school building do not allow for this. These time periods will be kept to a minimum eg: Transition in a corridor. As we have already had students in school, many of our systems have already been tested but additional control measures to lower risk are highlighted below.



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CONTROL MEASURES

- 1) Temperatures to be checked upon entry. (Reception & Sixth Form Gate)
- 2) Key Stage bubbles (KS3, KS4, KS5) for students. Staff under the guidance are permitted to work across bubbles.
- 3) Set Toilets for Key Stages.
- 4) Transport – Will be placed in Key Stage bubbles where transport can accommodate. We do not organise this. Transport have indicated they will work to Key stage bubbles as much as practically possible with geography of pick up and drop off locations.
- 5) Student arrival (Buses) – Sixth Form Gate opens 8.30am – 8.45am. The playground will have 3 zones (KS3, KS4, KS5). Students to go to relevant zone and remain in zone until 8.45am. (Wet break – Students to go to Form rooms)
- 6) Student arrival (Independent Students / Parent escorts)- Front Reception – Gate opens 8.45am – 9am (Students will go straight to form rooms).
- 7) Break times – Break times will be staggered.
- 8) Lunchtimes – 3x Lunch sessions for each Key Stage Bubble (KS3, KS4, KS5). Students need to remain in dining hall for first 15 minutes before going outside for activity on playground. (35-minute Lunch)
- 9) Departure: Students will depart at: (KS5 = 2.55pm, KS4 = 3pm and KS3 3.05pm).
- 10) The timetable will limit the number of transitions around school.
- 11) Mobile classrooms will have hand sanitizer pumps in cloak rooms and other stations across the school (especially where hand washing facilities are not near).
- 12) Maintain increased cleaning rota's.

In the event of a second wave infection, we will be keeping our home learning platforms and zoom capabilities. Staff have been excellent in adapting quickly and the school has been asked to take part in the BEP Conference in September 2020 on its home learning models. Particular praise to Mr Ali, Mr Mulla and Mrs Gill who have led these projects.

We plan to expand these to other services like our Speech and Language provision so your children's Educational Health Care Plan needs can be met fully. The school will be keeping visitors to a minimum. EHCP meetings, Agency Meetings etc will be conducted at distance by phone, Microsoft Teams or Zoom.



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Over the summer holidays we have further **asbestos removal** from the main building, **refurbishment of the Sixth Form** and extensive building works to **replace all the windows** in main school. This has been enabled by our successful negotiation with the Local Authority for over **two million pounds** in line with converting the school to an academy. This is on top of the £400,000 we were successful with earlier in the year. Alongside this, we have also been in discussions with the Department for Education for a capital grant of just under **one million pounds**. This goes to panel with Ministers over the holiday period and I hope to pass on good news in the new term. These funds will enable the school to build 8 new desperately needed classrooms and facilities in the next few years', subject to planning.

Special thanks needs to go to our back office, admin and site staff teams who have pulled portfolios of evidence together to justify and substantiate our arguments in what the students should have and need for a quality education.

We also have a **parent's shelter** and **outdoor classroom** being constructed over the holiday period. This was possible due to a **parent recommending** the school to the **Thompson Family Charitable Trust** that has donated **£10,000** and **school fund** contributing the remainder.



Planned New Parents Shelter



Planned New Outdoor Classroom



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Mrs J Fitzpatrick (Assistant Head teacher) will be leaving Birmingham and Queensbury school. She has been instrumental as a senior leader in my time at the school and always placed the students first in all her decisions. The impact she has had on staff, students and parents is second to none. She loves Queensbury School, its students and community and will stay in touch. We wish her well with her future endeavours and the outstanding contribution she has made to improve the school significantly.

Mr A Kearns who will be joining us in September, will be replacing as the Acting Assistant Head teacher. He brings a wealth of experience as a dynamic previous senior leader and we very much look forward to him catapulting the school even further.

In addition, Mr Andrew Mitchell is re-joining us in September as our Work Related Advisor, He is very enthusiastic about returning to Queensbury School and we are thrilled that he has chosen to return.

We are also welcoming the following new staff to Queensbury;

- Mr Satnam Sehra – Instructor
- Mr Steven Parry – Teacher
- Ms Aliya Hanif – Teacher
- Ms Rajjider Bird – Teacher

We are excited about the year to come and look forward to the expertise, creativity and energy they will provide to our students.

Examination Results

This year results day is **Thursday, 20th August 2020**. Due to Covid 19 it will not be in the same format as per previous years. There is link on Weduc for students to indicate how they wish to receive their results (please reply by Friday 17th July 2020). If a student chooses to collect their results, they can only collect at the time the school offers. If the student does not turn up at the time allocated, results will be posted out to the home address.



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School term dates and training days;

Autumn Term 2020

Term Starts Tuesday, 1st September 2020 – **Staff Training Day**
Wednesday, 2nd September 2020 – **Staff Training Day**
Thursday, 3rd September 2020 – new Year 7 Transition Day
Friday, 4th September 2020 – new Year 7 Transition Day

Half Term Monday, 26th October 2020 to Friday, 30th October 2020

Term Starts Monday, 2nd November 2020 - **Staff Training Day**
Term ends Friday, 18th December 2020

Spring Term 2021

Terms Starts Monday, 4th January 2021 - **Staff Training Day**
Half Term Monday, 15th February 2021 to Friday, 19th February 2021

Term Starts Monday, 22nd February 2021 - **Staff Training Day**
Term ends Thursday, 1st April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Term Starts Monday, 19th April 2021 - **Staff Training Day**
Half Term Monday, 31st May 2021 to Friday, 4th June 2021
Term ends Wednesday, 21st July 2021

Other Dates

Good Friday Friday, 2nd April 2021
Easter Monday Monday, 5th April 2021
May Day Monday, 3rd May 2021

School Uniform

The school is committed to a formal uniform and expects students to be smart in appearance at all times. This can be purchased from any retailer for example, ASDA, TESCO, Marks & Spencer. Additionally, by accessing the site www.myclothing.com you can choose the school emblem. We ask that students wear the following:



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UNIFORM

Navy jersey/sweatshirt (red jersey/sweatshirt for 6th Form)
Blue/white shirt or Polo shirt
Navy/Black trousers or skirts
Grey/Navy/Black socks
Dark shoes/trainers
Navy Blue fleece jacket or blazer

PE KIT

Navy or White polo or t-shirt
Navy, Black or White shorts
Navy socks
Trainers (no restriction on colour)

MAKEUP AND JEWELLERY

- Jewellery is not permitted in school, with the exception of an inexpensive watch (NOT a 'Smart watch'), ring and a small plain earring (stud) in each ear. Students will be required to remove items of jewellery for some practical lessons
- Other forms of piercing are not allowed and students will be asked to remove them
- Students wearing excessive makeup or colourful nail varnish/false/acrylic/fibre glass/gel nails will be asked to remove it/them

INAPPROPRIATE UNIFORM – students wearing inappropriate uniform are expected to rectify it immediately. If this is not possible, the school will provide an alternative in the short term whilst the issue is resolved and a text will be sent home. If the student continues to wear inappropriate uniform, then a note will be sent home with the student reminding parents/carers of the appropriate School wear.

Mobile Phones

These are not permitted in school and we suggest these valuable items are left at home.

Attendance Reminder

Thank you to those parents who follow the School's procedure and telephone the School to notify us about absence. Where parents choose to use this facility, written communication afterwards will not be necessary.



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Stationary and Pencil cases

We encourage our students to be as independent as possible and therefore expect them to be suitably equipped for lessons, bringing with them a pen, pencil and ruler.

School Meals

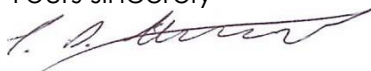
Please be aware that the price of a school meal is **£2.70 per day**.

I look forward to welcoming all our new Year 7 children and parents and equally wish our leavers every success they deserve in their new adventures. I only ask they stay in touch and let us know of their successes. You will always be a part of Queensbury School.

Finally, the Trust has asked me to stay on at Queensbury School for when we academise in the new term and of course I have been delighted to accept. We have inspirational students, staff who truly care about every student and parents that want the very best for their children. That magical combination will allow us all to do great things and I am excited about the future at Queensbury School. I truly believe **every child has the ability to unleash limitless potential** and who would not want to be part of that journey! Have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely



Chris Wilson

Interim Head teacher with executive powers



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