

Queensbury School

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



16th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer



A very warm welcome back to school! A special welcome to new students, parents and staff. I hope you will be very happy here. I would like to say how pleased I am to be your Executive Head Teacher. This is a very special school and one which I feel extremely privileged to lead. I am pleased to inform you that the school officially became an Academy school on the 1st September with The Education Impact Academy Trust (EIAT) working in partnership with Wilson Stuart School, The Hive College and Blue Sky Nursery. We are also currently supporting Mayfield School



and look forward to them joining the trust in the future.

As we plan for the beginning of a new academic term, like no other we have seen in the past, our focus will still be to ensure that every student has the opportunity to '**unleash their limitless potential**'. 2020 has challenged staff and students to find a new normal for learning. Our autumn term may not be typical, but our learning will not only continue, it will thrive.

How do you get information? Our website provides information for parents including Weduc (Communication platform and app for parents), Purple Mash (Homework and Home learning), term dates, school letters and wider support links. At the end of the first term we will also send you the school Newsletter. Please ensure you read it carefully, so you are clear about the events that have taken place or are going to take place. www.queensburysch.com

COVID 19 – Whilst Birmingham and other regions have seen significant spikes in cases, we have been fortunate not to have any confirmed cases. This is down to the measures that you are all helping with at home (Regular handwashing, reinforcing social distancing etc. This partnership with you as parents has allowed the school to run without having to close any bubbles. We are facing significant challenges of other local schools closing bubbles, which affects our staffs children and thus having to send staff to work from home, whilst they await a COVID test. Two weeks ago this was taking 24 -48 hours on average. This is now taking longer than 5 days. To show the level of commitment of our staff, one staff member had to drive to Wales to get tested, which they did to ensure we are able to operate safely.

The school size is technically a bubble in itself but we have gone further on measures to have bubbles within bubbles, lowering risk for all. For 20-21 students will work 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)



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Other measures:

- Temperature checking anybody who comes on site
- Staff visors
- Staggered Lunchtimes
- Staggered and zoned break times
- Staggered start and end

- Social distancing markers
- Cleaning lockers in every classroom
- Enhanced cleaning schedule
- Hand sanitiser stations around school
- Additional fire doors installed in classrooms giving an outside entrance to classrooms for students.
- One-way system in corridors.



In the event of a second wave infection, we will be keeping our home learning platforms and Zoom capabilities. 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. Our parents' evenings will be a phone call, zoom or Microsoft teams meeting to ensure we limit contact whilst infection rates are increasing.

SEND Transport – Travel Assist: There have been significant failings with the local authority and its SEND transport service over the last 5 years. The Special Head teacher's consortium and I have been lobbying and raising this critical agenda to the local authority, alongside many parents, SENDIAS and parent forums. This week the scrutiny committee highlighted the failings with the council and have insisted on action rather than broken promises. This is very much high on my agenda to ensure children are transported safely and able to access their legal entitlement of an education. Councillor Alex Yip and the Chair of the scrutiny committee Councillor Kath Scott have really represented our most vulnerable in society on all special schools and parent's behalf.



[Birmingham City Council](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)

You can view meeting: <http://civico.net/birmingham/democratic-services/10692> (4 Hours 12 mins into meeting)

On a much more positive note, building work of our window replacements are 70% complete and Sixth form refurbishment has given a more adult education focused feel to the learning environment. Our bike shed, outdoor classroom and parents shelter has been completed.



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Currently we have boiler replacements and the final sections of Window replacements being concluded on site. I am also thrilled to tell you that over the summer we were successful in our DFE grant application for just under **£1 million pounds**. This was supported by local MP Jack Dromey, who wrote to the Rt Hon Nick Gibb (Minister of State for School Standards).



We currently have two Parent Governor vacancies, now we have a Local Governing Body moving away from an Interim Executive Board (IEB). If you feel you could support the school, please contact the school and we can give you more details - 0121 373 5731. Finally, I would like to thank the staff and Governors for their hard work and commitment to the school. I will continue to work closely with them, to ensure that our students receive the best possible education that they can.

Yours sincerely

Mr Chris Wilson

Executive Head Teacher



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