



Eastbank Academy
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Head Teacher
Jonathan Graham

23 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Primary 7 Transition to Eastbank Academy

As this academic session comes to a close and your sons and daughters spend their final few days in Primary 7, I wanted to write to explain how things will look in August.

I am very much aware of the anxiety there is around the August return. However, we have worked very hard to ensure the structure of the school day is implemented, in part, so that we have a smoother transition to full days once national and local guidelines allow. I can assure you that the positive ethos of the school is still very much present.

The pupil day

As we are adapting to the new way of schooling it is important to remember that we will continue with the nurturing approaches embraced by our primary colleagues in caring for and supporting the health and well-being of your child.

Lessons for our new S1 will begin on Wednesday 12 August. As you are aware, we will be operating a blended model of learning in the new session, which will involve all pupils spending some time learning at school, and some time learning at home. At Eastbank Academy all S1 pupils will attend each afternoon, with their lessons beginning at 1:00pm. The session will end at 3:30 pm each day, except on a Friday when the session will end at 3:00pm.

Entry to school

To ensure we keep everyone safe pupils are asked not to enter the building until brought in by a member of staff. Therefore, I would appreciate if all S1 pupils approach the building via Academy Street, and assemble on the red blaze pitch area to the left of the school. This is between the astroturf pitch and Academy House. Please assure your child that staff will be on hand to support and direct at this time. Pupils will then be brought into school in a way that ensures physical distancing. I realise this might seem daunting, and I encourage everyone not to be fearful; this is just to keep us all safe.

Lunches

The cafeteria will not be open as normal, and pupils should be having lunch before they report to school. Pupils who are entitled to a free meal will be brought into the Fuel Zone at 12:45 to receive their lunch prior to afternoon lessons commencing.

Breaks

Teaching blocks equate to 2.5 daily contact hours for S1 pupils. There will not be formal breaks within each teaching block but pupils will move between classes at the end of each period which will allow for natural breaks in learning.

Snacks/Refreshments

Due to current guidelines, there will be no access to vending machines or water coolers, and therefore pupils are encouraged to bring water with them.

Toilets

Pupils who need to access toilets during a teaching block will be allowed to do so with teacher permission. Numbers in toilets will be overseen by staff. As secondary school pupils it is hoped and expected that this will be kept to a minimum to ensure fewer disruptions to learning and teaching

Uniform

All pupils are expected to be proud to wear our uniform. If any pupil is attending for Physical Education they should come to school in their PE kit to avoid the use of changing rooms. School ties and PE tops for those who wish to buy will be available from the school office and I will advise when these can be purchased at a later date. A leaflet containing full details of our uniform was issued recently and can be found at <http://eastbankacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Uniform-leaflet.pdf>.

In brief, our school uniform consists of:

- White shirt
- Black trousers/Skirt
- Black Shoes or completely black trainers
- School tie
- Black blazer
- Plain black V-neck jumper

Safety

In following national guidelines, pupils should not attend school if they are displaying symptoms related to COVID19. Should your child or a member of your household test positive for COVID 19 please follow the government advice regarding isolation, and inform your son/daughter's Head of Year or Pastoral Care teacher. To ensure the safety of all it is important that all pupils:

- Respect 2m social distancing at all times;
- Practise good hygiene;
- Avoid touching their face;
- Catch coughs or sneezes in a hankie or on their sleeve;
- Follow the signed one way system in corridors;
- Avoid gatherings in the playground or social areas before and after school;
- Use the designated entry point in the building to reach class;
- Leave the building and playground as quickly as possible after a teaching block.

School Bags

All pupils should bring a schoolbag with all necessary equipment. It is advised that equipment should not be shared with other pupils. We do pride ourselves on the provision of lockers for our young people however the use of lockers will be discouraged in the short term.

Unfortunately we were not in a position to proceed with our three day visit this month, but pupils had the opportunity to visit the school on a number of occasions prior to the lock-down which were very successful. I also hope that everyone found the YouTube videos and twitter feed useful. Please keep an eye on these as there will be updates in August prior to pupils returning. In addition, a letter containing details of your child's tutor class and pastoral care teacher will follow by post in due course, and should be with you in mid-July.

I share the excitement of all staff in saying that we are very much looking forward to welcoming our new S1s to Eastbank Academy in August. In the meantime I hope that you and your families stay well and have a pleasant and relaxing summer.

Yours faithfully



Mr J. Graham
Head Teacher