



Bolingbroke Academy
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Bolingbroke
Academy

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Friday 5th June 2020

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you are all staying safe and well. Thank you for all your understanding and support as the school has navigated the past few weeks. I am writing to update you on 5 key elements: -

1. Bolingbroke Academy's approach since lockdown
2. The latest Government guidance (Thursday 28th May)
3. Phased re-opening from mid-June 2020 for Years 10 and 12
4. Considerations for further reopening and parent information evenings
5. Head of year news

1. Bolingbroke Academy's approach since lockdown

These are extraordinary and challenging times for all of us and I am proud of how the staff, students and parents/carers have adapted and managed to keep learning and acting as a community since the lockdown hit. The considerations around school re-opening are exceptionally complex, however I can speak without hesitation for all Bolingbroke staff when I say that we are missing being together at school and are determined to build up to a full re-opening as soon as it is safe and permitted to do so.

At Bolingbroke, we have taken a number of steps to ensure we fulfil our primary purpose of supporting our students' continued academic progress and are able to plan for re-opening:

- Immediate switch to online learning following initial lockdown
- Progressive enhancement of teaching approach and organisation including adoption of MS Teams as our single online learning platform
- Parent/carer updates for all year groups
- Additional "live" lessons for all students
- Survey of year 10 and 12 parents and creation of a taskforce to support re-opening decisions
- Detailed risk assessment under the guidance of Ark to understand potential considerations for re-opening
- Regular meeting of advisory group consisting of staff, parent representative and governors

2. Latest Government guidance (Thursday 28th May)

As you will be aware, the Government announced on Thursday 28th May that, where possible, schools should allow for limited face to face contact with some of the Year 10 and 12 cohort. This reflects the continuing need for steps to limit the spread of the virus, but also recognises the priority accorded to these students who are at a critical stage of preparing for GCSEs and A-levels

To support this slow and gradual return to site our online distance learning will continue to be our main teaching/learning tool. Feedback from staff and pupils alike has been that this method is effective and working well for the vast majority of pupils and whilst it is not ideal it remains a vital way of staying connected to pupils

and continuing their education. We will continue to evolve the distance learning approach to ensure the highest possible quality of education and engagement possible under the current constraints.

Every decision we have made has closely followed the advice from Public Health England, SAGE and the Government guidance.

3. First stage of reopening at Bolingbroke

In line with government advice and subsequent to our own risk assessment, we will be opening school for a limited number of year 10 and 12 students from Monday 15th June 2020.

Over the past few weeks the staff, governors and parent representatives have consulted on and agreed the details of our phased reopening. Our key objective is to provide meaningful support for the students who will benefit most from in-school and face-to-face teaching or access to school facilities.

From Monday 15th June 2020:

- On-site learning will be restricted to small groups of no more than fifteen
- Social distancing measures will be in place at all times as well as increased cleaning, hand gels and other cleaning products
- The vast majority of pupils will continue online learning given that we have seen high levels of engagement ranging from 95-100%
- Year 10 students studying Art, Computing, Drama and Music will focus on coursework following their assessment period
- Year 12 students will be taking three weekly assessments and the academic year will end in mock examinations on exams.net (a Swedish online system). In addition pupils will be participating in independent study leave. Priority for onsite provision for those studying Art and Applied Science due to coursework elements.

Please note that students are not to return to the site for any social gatherings or interactions. This is in line with the Government guidance and must be strictly enforced for their safety as well as others.

Next week we will provide further guidance for parent/carers on what our young people are to wear, bring onto site, which entrance to use and which room to attend for their session.

4. Considerations for further reopening and parent information evenings

Any decisions taken by myself, staff, governors and parents are always based on the advice and guidance available at that time and we continue to prioritise the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff alike. The fast-moving nature of this situation means any final plans cannot be communicated until August.

We therefore need to maintain as much flexibility as possible to respond to each announcement and guidance which could include another lockdown and changes to social distancing advice. We are not able to make any commitments about further re-opening at this time.

In the meantime at Bolingbroke Academy our dedicated team of staff are determined to make the most of our 'new normal'. As we plan for each phase there are many considerations for reopening, including:

- Maintaining and developing the new norm of blended online and in-school learning to support pupils/students and staff.
- Reduced staffing levels for in-school teaching due to those in vulnerable categories not being able to attend site.
- Ensuring specialist subject teaching across all year groups is a priority for quality teaching.
- Managing social distancing in our building and the impact of this on well supported teaching and learning and on facilities.

Our primary guiding principle will remain to deliver the best education we can at any time whether this is delivered online or in school. We will continue to prioritise groups of students by year group and need and to deploy our resources in the interests of all children while operating under these constraints. As the guidance evolves, we will update our approach. We have scheduled parent information sessions to keep you all abreast

of our thinking and next steps as outlined below and appreciate your understanding as we navigate these unprecedented challenges.

- Year 10 Thursday 11th June (4pm-5pm) Invite sent out by Head of Year – Ms Murphy
- Year 9 Tuesday 23rd June (4pm-5pm) Invite sent out by Head of Year – Ms Bridges
- Year 12 Wednesday 8th July (4:30-5:40pm) Invite sent out by Head of Year – Ms Gelder
- Year 7 Monday 29th June (3:30pm-4:30pm) Invite sent out by Head of Year – Mr Thomas
- Year 8 Monday 29th June (5pm-6pm) Invite sent out by Head of Year – Ms Namotovu
- New Year 7 Monday 8th June (4pm-5pm) & Monday 6th July (4pm-5pm)

Head of year news

Over the past weeks and months, you will be aware of two Head of Year changes for 2020-21. Ms Namotovu will be travelling to Dubai to teach and Ms Bridges is moving back to her home town in Preston. We are extremely grateful to both members of staff for their incredible hard work. Both members of staff will be greatly missed by our young people and staff. Over the next six weeks Ms Namotovu and Ms Bridges will be preparing for the transition to their new Heads of Year. I'm delighted to announce Ms Lawrence will take on the role as Head of Year for Class of 2025 (Year 8) and Mr Griffin for Class of 2024 (Year 9) from September 2020.

We continue to appreciate all your feedback and support and thank you to all the Year 10 and 12 parents who completed the on-line survey over the half term period. If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or alternatively your child's Head of Year or Assistant Principal for the relevant key stage: -

- Key Stage 3 – Ms Kennedy j.kennedy@arkbolingbrokeacademy.org
- Key Stage 4 – Mr Rye t.rye@arkbolingbrokeacademy.org
- Key Stage 5 – Ms Orchin c.orchin@arkbolingbrokeacademy.org

Thank you again for your patience and support. I know that, like me, you will agree that the priority has to be the health and safety of our young people as well as their education.

All of the decisions we have taken have prioritised that and the advisory group of staff, parent representative and governors will continue to meet regularly as the situation develops.

Warmest regards,



Ms Edis
Principal