



August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Full reopening of The Beech Academy from September 2020

We all hope that this letter finds you safe and well, and that you are having a lovely summer.

Firstly, thank you for your continued support during these unusual times, throughout the pandemic and with the home learning which has been provided - it is very much appreciated. We are really excited about being able to welcome all our children back in September and to be able to continue to provide engaging learning opportunities during the next academic year. We have missed them so much!

The academy has been, and remains very busy over the summer period, planning for the autumn term as we prepare to open to all of our children and make the adjustments needed to our school routines so that we continue to comply with government guidelines and ensure that the safety of everybody remains our number one priority. The information below provides you with details about the full re-opening of The Beech Academy from Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

Following such an extended period of time out of school, it is vital that we are able to provide the time and support to re-engage all of our children in a considerate and sensitive manner. This will be particularly crucial for our new children who have been unable to access a transitional period because of the recent restrictions. Therefore, we will operate a phased return of all students in the following way:

- Wednesday 2nd September **(New Year 7 students ONLY - 8.35am)**
- Thursday 3rd September **(Year 7, Year 11, Post-16 students ONLY - 8.35am)**
- Friday 4th September **(Year 7, Year 11, Post-16 students ONLY - 8.35am)**
- Monday 7th September **(All students including Year 8, Year 9 & Year 10 return - 8.35am)**

What do you need to do next?

- Read the information contained in this letter and discuss the relevant aspects with your child.
- Sign and complete the Home School Agreement and ensure that this is brought into school on the first day back in September (as appropriate).

Is your child expected to attend?

- All children are expected back in school from September 2020.
- If your child is classed as 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable' then please contact us before the beginning of term so that we can put appropriate risk assessments in place.

Will Beech Academy be operating in bubbles?

- Yes, children will be split across 2 bubbles on Main Site. **(Bubble 1 = Y7, Y8, Y9) (Bubble 2 = Y10, Y11, Post-16).**
- The Westfield site will operate as 1 bubble as numbers here are significantly reduced.
- Bubbles will be kept separate from each other throughout the day and during social times (breaks/lunches).

What are the processes for children arriving/leaving school?

- There will be **NO** staggered start/end times for different year groups.
- Local Authority Transport will operate as normally as possible with the following changes to procedure:
 - Passenger numbers will be reduced on larger vehicles.



- Passenger numbers will be limited in taxis.
- There will be separate buses for Main Site and Westfield.
- Transport operators will complete risk assessments and drivers/escorts will wear PPE.
- Face masks for children on transport are "advised" over the age of 11, it is not currently compulsory.
- If dropping off your child, only one parent per family is permitted. 1 Metre + social distancing rules will apply.
- If dropping off your child, please remain at the top of the Main Site drive or within the Westfield car park.
- Please **DO NOT** enter the school buildings for any reason unless you have a pre-arranged appointment.
- At this time, face to face meetings will be kept to a minimum (e.g. 15 minutes). We will remain available via telephone/email at all times.

Is your child expected to wear school uniform?

- Children will be expected to wear uniform from September 2020, as normal. Furthermore, children will need their PE kit in school, when appropriate.

What equipment will your child need to bring?

- All children must bring in a water bottle each day and take it home each night.
- All children will be provided with an appropriate stationery box of their own. **Please do not send your child in with equipment from home** as we are trying to reduce the risk of contamination.
- All equipment which is shared equipment such as PE equipment, science equipment, and maths equipment will all be cleaned after being used by a bubble before it is used by other children.

What will be the arrangements for breaks & lunchtimes?

- Bubbles will be allocated set areas to use within the school grounds at breaks and lunches.
- Our normal process will resume and hot meals will be available for your child if required.
- Our 2 bubbles on Main Site will have lunch at different times, to ensure cleaning between sittings.
- Lunchtime at Westfield will be unaffected as we will operate as 1 bubble here.
- Please ensure that where you pay for your child's lunch, cash is sent into school in a sealed envelope.
- Please visit the government website for more information on eligibility for free school meals.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

What will the school site look like?

- The school site will look very similar to what it did prior to when children left in March, however there will be stickers around the school site to remind people of social distancing in corridors and classrooms, and there will also be a one way system in operation.

Please be aware that there may be changes to this guidance and information should the government release updates over the coming days and weeks. We will ensure that you are kept informed should this be the case. If you have any concerns or would like to raise any questions about any of the information contained within the letter please forward correspondence to either BOffice@beech.evolutrust.org or Covid19@evolutrust.org

Yours faithfully,

RN Davies (Head of School)

www.evolutrust.org

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