

Dudley Academies Trust

Executive offices, Dudley College of Technology
Priory Villa, 3a Ednam Road, Dudley, West
Midlands, DY1 1HL
Chair of Board of Trustees: Lowell Williams
Chief Executive: Jo Higgins



26/08/20

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: September 2020

I write to reassure you about the many steps we have taken to ensure that all of our academies are able to re-open in September. As I am sure you will agree, it is vitally important that all of our learners can return to school life and resume their education in a school setting.

Over the summer a great deal of work has taken place to risk assess our academies and to make any changes to our estates that have been required. **The risk assessment is currently being amended to reflect the latest governance guidance and will be released on Friday 28th August 2020. The risk assessment will be available on each academy website under the COVID-19 tab.**

As you will see from the below plan, all learners will have a detailed induction to ensure that they are fully aware of the changes that have been made to keep them safe. In our secondary academies there will be a phased return to give each year group an opportunity to familiarise themselves with our new procedures. All learners will have their designated areas for learning, they will have staggered start and end times to the school day, staggered break times and they will have lunch in a designated area with their year group. Toilets will be closely supervised and we have a heightened cleaning regime in all of our academies. There will also be hand sanitiser in each classroom and around the academy site

Date	Detail
01/09/20 (Tue)	Inset Day for staff in their academy
02/09/20 (Wed)	Year 11 Induction
03/09/20 (Thur)	Year 7 Induction
04/09/20 (Fri)	Year 10 Induction
07/09/20 (Mon)	Year 9 Induction
08/09/20 (Tue)	Year 8 Induction

It will be absolutely essential that our Values Driven Expectations behaviour model is followed by all learners. We know that this is a strength in all of our secondary academies. Indeed, one of our core values is 'respecting each other and our world'. Now, more than ever, it is crucial that our learners understand the importance of their collective responsibility and playing their part in keeping all members of our community safe. We will have very limited space in our Supporting Expectations areas due to the fact that all year groups are being separated in their designated areas. Should a learner misbehave and exhibit behaviour that puts others at risk, then we will have no option other than to exclude the learner on a fixed term basis.



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Regarding uniform, we appreciate that in these uncertain times, not all learners will have their full uniform at the beginning of term. Please be reassured that there will be a grace period to allow learners to acquire any missing items. Year 7 blazers and ties will be gifted to learners during their induction, as will Year 11 ties. Years 8 to 10 ties will be available to purchase from the academy at £4 per tie. Planners will be gifted to all learners during their induction. As per the risk assessment, it is important that all learners bring their own equipment to school.

Following important government guidance that was issued on Tuesday 25th August 2020, we have made the decision to implement the use of face coverings/masks for learners and staff from the start of the academic year. We believe that it is essential to take any action possible to reduce the level of risk for all members of our community. In accordance with guidelines, learners and staff will be required to wear a mask as they move around the academy and spend time in communal areas. On their induction day, specific guidance on how to use a mask safely will be provided to all learners. In accordance with our dress code, learners' masks should be a plain colour. Should any learner or member of staff have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, then they would of course be exempt from this requirement. Please note that parents and carers should provide their child with a mask from their first day in September.

We are aware that guidance changes on a regular basis and we will, of course, continue to review our procedures paying close attention to local information about the COVID-19 virus. We will also keep you fully updated on the situation should it change in any way. If you have any queries or suggestions about the measures we are taking, then we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please support, encourage and reassure your child that coming back to their academy will be a positive experience. We really want all learners to get back to learning, progressing and enjoying school life. All of our academies are rapidly improving and we are confident that your child has the best life chances possible with Dudley Academies Trust.

Thank you in advance for your full support and I hope you all stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully

Jo Higgins
Chief Executive



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