



**KING EDWARD VI
HANDSWORTH WOOD
GIRLS' ACADEMY**

Educational excellence for our City

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FOUNDATION
BIRMINGHAM**

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1.09.2021

Dear families,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all students back to the Academy from Monday 6th September at 8.35am. A reminder students should report to the MUGA and line up in their prospective year and tutor groups.

We highly encourage KS3 (Y7, Y8, and Y9) use the Church Road entrance and KS4 and 5 students to use the Handsworth Wood Road entrance. This is being encouraged due to the year-on-year increase in student numbers which makes it almost impossible for over 1000 students to solely use the Church Road entrance.

I would also like to remind you about being considerate to local residents when dropping off your daughters at school by not blocking driveways or pathways.

Safe return

As mentioned in my letter towards the end of last term, almost all the COVID related restrictions have now been lifted but the following will remain for the foreseeable future:

- Students will continue to have the option to wear face coverings, if they wish.
- Students will be encouraged to hand sanitise and wash their hands regularly.
- Encouraging staff and students to continue to follow good respiratory health through the use of 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it'. To support this can I encourage all students to bring their own disposable tissues.
- We will continue to wipe down touch points across the site regularly throughout the day.
- We highly encourage all students to continue to carry out 2 LFT tests a week as a means of ensuring asymptomatic students do not come to school.

Self-Isolation

As you will be aware the government have made significant changes to the self-isolation rules recently.

Here are the key changes to self-isolation that took effect on 16th August:

Headteacher: Mr Qamar Riaz

- From 16 August close contacts who are fully vaccinated or those under 18 will not need to self-isolate.
- All close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test – you should encourage anyone identified as a close contact to do this.
- Individuals identified as close contacts will not need to self-isolate while they are awaiting the results of their test.
- If the PCR result is positive, the individual must self-isolate and NHS Test and Trace will work with them to identify any close contacts.
- 18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children and young people until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they should self-isolate – and you should inform school. You should immediately arrange a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test taken at home, they should self-isolate – and you should inform school. You should immediately arrange a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive they must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the Government's website - <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.
4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the school during term time.

Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.



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6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. **From 16 August**, if the close contact is under 18, or a fully vaccinated adult they will not have to self-isolate.
8. Close contacts will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test.
9. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above).

Yours sincerely,

Mr Qamar Riaz

Headteacher

