

2 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Education during the second lockdown in England

I am writing to confirm details of education at Birmingham Ormiston Academy (BOA) following the Prime Minister's announcement of a second lockdown across England in order to combat COVID-19.

The Academy is open to all students for on-site learning and the current timetable will remain in place for the remainder of this term. I have published the start and finish times overleaf, as a reminder to all. We will also continue to utilise a number of venues across the city centre, which enables us to maximise on space and deliver education as safely as possible. As a result, lessons will continue at Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the Old Repertory Theatre, as per the published timetable. I have had assurances from Birmingham Repertory Theatre that we have sole use of the venue from now until the Christmas break.

Arrangements for students who are extremely clinically vulnerable:

Whereas the UK Government has not reissued the same guidelines regarding shielding for people who are extremely clinically vulnerable, the Prime Minister has advised all to be cautious over their routines during the second lockdown period. If any student has been placed in the extremely clinically vulnerable category and is concerned about attendance at school, they must seek advice from their GP. Please keep us informed over any updates.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19:

We currently have 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students at BOA. The cases do not appear to be connected to one another. To date, the majority of cases of COVID-19 at BOA have been tracked back to exposure that has taken place outside of the Academy. As a result, I urge students and their families to be vigilant when out and about in public. In return, we will continue to uphold the following:

1. Students must ensure they wear their face coverings when they enter BOA building, the Old Repertory Theatre, and the Repertory Theatre. They must also wear their face coverings in communal areas, especially around students from other pathways and year groups.
2. Good personal hygiene must be maintained, especially when using the toilet facilities and when eating and drinking. Hand sanitiser should be used frequently, as and when required.
3. Students must ensure they practise social distancing during lessons, particularly in practical sessions and when they are immersed in group work. In classrooms, students must sit in their allocated seat(s) in a forward-facing formation, unless instructed to do otherwise.
4. Students must be cautious at break and lunch times, which can be problematic as students remove face coverings in order to eat and drink. As all year groups have separate lunch times (or separate lunch spaces on certain days) and there is more than adequate space in these areas, students must ensure they practise social distancing. Students must avoid sitting in informal circles in close proximity and must sit at tables with adequate distance from one another. In the canteen area, students must sit behind the screens rather than facing one another directly.

5. Students must avoid sharing resources, particularly stationery. Students must also avoid sharing sweets and crisps. We have had to remind a few students of this on a number of occasions.
6. Students must avoid hugging one another, even though they may not have seen each other for a number of days.

Public transport:

1. At the time of writing, I have not received news that services in and out of the city centre are adversely affected by the second lockdown. Despite this, I urge all families to check for any revised timetables ahead of their children returning to BOA on Tuesday 3rd November. At the same time, students must wear their face coverings when travelling to and from the Academy, especially if they meet up with students from other pathways and year groups. It is a mandatory requirement to wear a face covering on public transport and students should also attempt to sit or stand apart from each other, especially if they travel in small groups.

NB: I have received two further emails to inform me that students are not following these rules on public transport, most notably on trains from the Lichfield and Tamworth areas.

Reporting new cases of COVID-19:

If any new cases of the virus have emerged over the half term break, please ensure these are reported to the Attendance Officer (or to me) as soon as possible, especially if symptoms emerged just before the half term break. This will enable us to contact any students who may have been in close or direct contact. It is important to note that *NHS Track & Trace* can only make contact if a person's full details are known. (attendance@boa-academy.co.uk / 0121 359 9300)

In accordance with information on the NHS website, please remember that:

1. If you have received confirmation that you have COVID-19, you must isolate at home for 10 days from a) the onset of symptoms, or b) from the date of the actual test (if you did not display symptoms). You must also provide us with information of anyone you have been in direct (within 1 metre for more than 1 minute) and close (within 2 metres for up to 15 minutes) contact with in the 48 hours leading up to a) the onset of symptoms, or b) the test for COVID-19.
2. If you have been in direct or close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, you must isolate for 14 days. This period starts from or should be tracked back to your last contact with the confirmed case. If you receive a negative test result in the interim, you must continue to isolate for the full 14 days due to the incubation period associated with the virus.
3. If you have been asked to isolate at home due to close contact with a confirmed case but you have not displayed symptoms, your family members can go about their usual daily/weekly routines. If you start to display symptoms, your family members should begin to isolate and you should request a test through the NHS website. Similarly, if a member of your family has been instructed to isolate and then begins to display symptoms, you should remain at home and follow the same isolation rules.

Timings of the Academy week:

Monday

Year 10: 9.30am to 4.15pm
 Year 11: 9.00am to 3.45pm
 Year 12: 9.00am to 3.45pm
 Year 13: 9.30am to 4.15pm

Tuesday

Year 10: 9.30am to 4.15pm
 Year 11: 9.00am to 3.45pm
 Year 12: 9.00am to 3.45pm
 Year 13: 9.30am to 4.15pm

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 : @ImagineBOA

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Wednesday

Year 10: 9.00am to 4.15pm

Year 11: 9.00am to 3.15pm

Year 12: 9.00am to 3.45pm

Year 13: 9.00am to 4.15pm

Thursday

Year 10: 9.30am to 4.15pm

Year 11: 9.00am to 3.45pm

Year 12: 9.00am to 3.45pm

Year 13: 9.30am to 4.15pm

Friday

Year 10: 9.15am to 2.00pm

Year 11: 9.00am to 2.15pm

Year 12: 9.15am to 1.45pm

Year 13: 9.15am to 1.30pm

I look forward to welcoming your child back to BOA this week. In the meantime, I hope you all remain safe and well.

If you have any queries, please contact me on the following email address: principal@boa-academy.co.uk

Yours truly,



Alistair Chattaway
Principal