

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



18/05/20

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: *Principal update and secondary reopening plans*

I hope you are all well. I am pleased to provide some very important information about the leadership of Beacon Hill Academy and our plans to reopen for Year 10 learners in June.

Principal update

After careful consideration, Mark Thorogood has decided to relinquish the position of Principal at Beacon Hill Academy. We wish Mr Thorogood the very best for his future.

The Trust Board has acted very quickly to undertake a formal search for a new Principal and has managed a robust, comprehensive recruitment process. I am delighted to inform you that, having served as interim Principal, Sukhjot Dhama applied for this position and he has been successful. Mr Dhama will therefore take up the post of Principal of Beacon Hill Academy from Monday 18th May 2020.

Mr Dhama stated “I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as the new Principal at Beacon Hill Academy. I am looking forward to working with all the learners, staff and parents as we strive for even greater success for all our young people. By working together we can ensure that all learners enjoy their time at school, make excellent progress and leave us with the necessary skills, attitudes and ambition to lead successful and fulfilling lives.”

I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Mr Dhama on his new position as Principal of Beacon Hill Academy.

Secondary reopening plans

Following the Prime Minister’s announcement on Sunday 10th May 2020, the government has released new guidance for education settings. Links to this guidance are below.

- [Guidance for education settings](#)
- [Guidance for parents and carers](#)

As an overview, the Department for Education has provided the following key guidance:

- No one with symptoms should attend a setting for any reason.
- Eligible children – including priority groups – are strongly encouraged to attend their education setting, unless they are still self-isolating or they are clinically vulnerable (in which case they should follow medical advice).
- If someone in the household is extremely clinically vulnerable, they should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to, and the child is able to understand and follow those instructions.
- Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.



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I know you will have many questions about this guidance and what this means for our academies. Please be assured that as a Trust we are closely following all safety advice from the government and will treat this as the minimum standard across all our academies. The safety of our learners and our staff is our highest priority.

Below is an outline of what the Trust is planning moving forward. It is important to note that plans are subject to change based on government guidance, the Board of Trustees' approval and feedback from parents and carers.

Reopening plans (Year 10)

From Monday 15th June until Friday 17th July 2020 we plan on reopening for our Year 10 learners as follows:

- Beacon Hill Academy: 3 cohorts of learners which will allow learners to attend for 4 full days per fortnight.

Prior to reopening, you will receive information about which cohort your child will be in and the days that they are expected to attend.

The full reopening plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees on Friday 22nd May 2020 for their approval. This proposal is inclusive of a comprehensive risk assessment. Some of the key points of the proposal are outlined below:

- Classes of a maximum of 8 learners in an average sized classroom.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been purchased for all staff (inclusive of face masks, gloves, disinfectant etc.).
- Hand wash will be available at all times and frequently replenished in all academies.
- Reception areas will be fitted with Perspex screens where needed.
- Staggered break and lunch with supervised outdoor time, weather permitting.
- Learners will bring their own packed lunch. There will be no onsite catering.
- Social distancing expectations will apply at all times.

Year 10 Parent/ Carer Survey

It is very important that we understand how you feel in these anxious times. Therefore, we have put together a parent/carers survey for parents and carers of Year 10 learners to complete.

The responses you provide will be central to finalising our plans to reopen. We also need to produce attendance registers based on your response; **it is therefore vital that a response is provided for each Year 10 learner.** Below is a link to the survey which will be available until Friday 22nd May 2020, 15:00.

[Year 10 Parent/ Carer Survey](#)



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As you know, guidance from the government continues to change depending on the current climate. All our plans are subject to approval by the Board of Trustees. We will of course continue to keep you updated where possible and review circumstances on a daily basis.

Thank you for your patience at this time and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jo Higgins'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jo Higgins
Chief Executive



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