

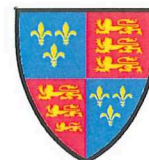


**KING EDWARD VI
BALAAM WOOD
ACADEMY**

King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy
New Street, Frankley,
Birmingham
B45 0EU

Tel: 0121 464 9901/2

enquiry@bwa.kevibham.org
bwa.kevibham.org



**KING EDWARD VI
ACADEMY TRUST
BIRMINGHAM**

July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: End of Summer Term Letter – July 2021

I would like to start this letter with a thank you and an acknowledgment of all the hard work, dedication and commitment that has been shown by our pupils, their parents and carers and the whole of our wonderful and supportive staff body through what has been another academic year of dealing with the challenges of the global pandemic. This term has seen you all presented with challenges. Pupils have had to cope with bubble closures and remote learning and our Teaching Staff have had to learn to switch between live lessons and face-to-face teaching. I couldn't be prouder of how the pupils, their families, Teaching Staff and Support Staff have adapted throughout this uncertain time. We should all feel incredibly proud of our community.

As always in a busy school environment, there are some updates and changes that you need to be aware of as we approach the next academic year. Please take a moment to read the following information so you and your child are up-to-date and prepared for September.

Last Day Arrangements

Our final day of the term will be on Wednesday, 21 July 2021. The format of the day will be as follows:

8:45-9:05 Form Time as usual
9:05-10:05 Period 1 as usual
10:05-11:05 Form Time / Assemblies
11:05-11:30 Break Time as usual
11:30-12:00 Form Time

Pupils will then be dismissed at 12:00pm. Please note that this day will also be a Non-School Uniform Day for all pupils. The canteen will be open at break time to serve a range of sandwiches and hot meals.

Staffing Changes

This term, we will say goodbye and best wishes to the following staff members as they continue their journeys elsewhere. We wish them the best of luck and thank them for their time as part of our community.

- Mr L Nolan – SENCO
- Mr A Saeed – Teacher of Science
- Mr R Williams – Teacher of Performing Arts
- Mrs F Yaker – Teacher of French and Spanish

Headteacher: Mr D. McGarvey

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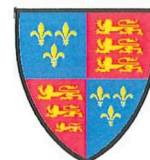


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In September, we will be welcoming a few new faces to the team here at King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy. We cannot wait for them to get started and look forward to seeing their future successes with us. We will be welcoming the following staff members next academic year:

- Mr S Kendall – Teacher of Music and Drama
- Mrs G Launay-Hughes – Teacher of Spanish
- Mr E Ndayongeje – Teacher of French
- Mrs H Nijjar – Assistant Head of Humanities / Teacher of Geography
- Mrs D Nzuki – Teacher of Science
- Mr K O'Brien – Teacher of Design Technology
- Miss S Turner – SENCO

Some of you may have spotted the appointment of Music and Design Technology Teachers of which I am proud and excited to share with you means that we will be re-introducing Design Technology and Music back onto our curriculum. We look forward to seeing pupils take on new subjects within the Creative Arts Faculty.

Start of Term Arrangements

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you some key term dates for September 2021. The academy will be closed to all pupils on Thursday, 2 and Friday, 3 September 2021 for Staff Training Days. Pupils will be welcomed back on a staggered return on the following dates:

- Year 7 return on Monday, 6 September 2021 at 8:45am
- Year 8 return on Tuesday, 7 September 2021 at 8:45am
- Year 9 return on Wednesday, 8 September 2021 at 8:45am
- Year 10 return on Tuesday, 7 September 2021 at 11:30am
- Year 11 return on Monday, 6 September 2021 at 11:30am

The decision for a staggered return is to allow our new Year 7 pupils a day of settling into their new school and for Year 11 pupils a head start on what will be a very important year for them.

Following government guidance, upon our return in September, it will be no longer necessary to keep pupils in bubbles. Therefore, there will be no zoning of bubbles in September as things currently stand. Schools will only be responsible for contact tracing up until Sunday, 18 July 2021. After this date, all close contacts should be identified via NHS Test and Trace.

From Monday, 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result.

Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, students, staff, and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. From Step 4, face coverings are also no longer

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recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school or college and are no longer legally required on public transport.

Furthermore, all pupils must receive two lateral flow tests upon their return to school, as per government guidance. Therefore, the first week back will accommodate this, with pupils to be tested on the following days.

Year Group	Testing Day 1
7	Monday, 6 September 2021
8	Tuesday, 7 September 2021
9	Wednesday, 8 September 2021
10	Tuesday, 7 September 2021
11	Monday, 6 September 2021

Year Group	Testing Day 2
7	Thursday, 9 September 2021
8	Friday, 10 September 2021
9	Monday, 13 September 2021
10	Friday, 10 September 2021
11	Thursday, 9 September 2021

Please ensure that you have completed our online form to indicate your consent for testing.

Site Works

Many of you may have noticed that we have been undergoing various renovation works this term. I am pleased to share with you that the roofing works has finally be completed and that refurbishments of our washrooms and changing rooms are also due to be completed for a September start. Our next phase of redevelopment will then commence with the updating of ICT suites and facilities.

I look forward to seeing our Year 11 leavers on Thursday, 12 August 2021 where they will collect confirmation of their final grades and wish them the best of wishes as they leave us and pursue their dreams and aspirations. Please keep a close eye on our website and our social media pages for updates on how and when these can be collected.

As we say goodbye to Year 11, we welcome our new Year 7 intake in September. I am beyond excited at the trips we already have planned for next year. A couple to note are the Year 7 resident trip to Whitemoor Lakes in October and a Team-Building Day at Blackwell Court for what will be our new Year 11. I am delighted that enrichment has still continued despite restrictions, all of which are shared on our social media pages and in our newsletter.

I would like to finish this letter by sharing with you some feedback of a recent review of our safeguarding practices within school. The reviewer, with many years' experience in a range of different schools up and down the country, stated that King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy



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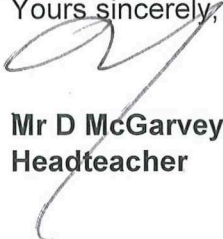


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pupils were the most articulate and aspirational pupils she had ever met. As always, our young people are a credit to us as parents, carers and educators.

Finally, I hope you all have a restful, deserving and safe summer holidays and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr D McGarvey
Headteacher**

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