



ENDEAVOUR  
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# Emerson Park Academy

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

July 2020

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Head Teacher: Mr S McGuinness

Dear Parent/Carer,

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support throughout such a difficult period. The phased return for Year 10 has gone well and we now move to the next stage of our re-opening plans.

This letter gives you a few areas for you to consider and ways you can help in making the return as successful as possible.

### Planning for September

In my last letter, I shared that we were planning for a phased return. The Secretary of State for Education made his long awaited announcement on 2 July. We are currently decoding this guidance to see what it really means for Emerson Park Academy. As per the guidance; we will need to consider a range of logistical challenges in order to enable us to safely reopen, such as the size of the 'bubble' of students (these will be based on the Year Group/Key Stage of your child), timings of the school day, provision in the classroom, movement around the school and lunchtime provision and arrangements.

There will be separate entrances for Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) and Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). Maintaining social distancing as much as is possible and practicable is one of a plethora of requirements in the guidance that will necessitate a number of adjustments to be made to the routines and processes of the daily running of the school.

We have a plan that is as close to 'normal school' as possible.

All of our plans will be subject to further developments depending on the local and national picture at the time.

There are a number of aspects that parents may wish to begin considering in response to the government guidance. I would therefore ask all parents to consider the following:

**Contact details** - Ensuring that contact details such as phone numbers and email addresses are current and accurate.

**Vigilance of illness**- Ensuring that any child displaying any Covid symptoms is kept at home and does not attend school. This is one of the four key controls listed by the government in its guidance.

**Travel to and from school** – The government guidance has explicitly asked school communities to try to walk or cycle or drive to school where possible. Where public or dedicated school buses are used for students to sit in year group 'bubble' sections and wear a face covering.

**The importance of heightened hygiene** – Two of the four key control measures centre around regular hand washing/sanitising and practising good respiratory hygiene by following the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' protocol.



Please discuss these practices regularly with your child ahead of the September return and where possible, ensure that your child has hand sanitiser and tissues with them on arrival to school each day.

**Catering arrangements** –Whilst our ambition in September is to ensure that we are able to offer as full an onsite provision as is practicable. We would ask all parents to consider the possibility that a greater number of students may need to bring packed lunches into school, if operational issues mean that we need to adjust the catering provision offered.

The lunch break will be 30 minutes. A healthy and substantial breakfast before leaving home is essential and recommended for all students.

**Preparing students for full opening** – Clearly, these last months have had a significant impact on the mental health and well-being of the nation as a whole. We fully understand that a return to school will prove to be a daunting prospect for a number of students and as a school community we will do our best to support students in addressing those anxieties but I would also urge all parents to begin the process of listening to and offering reassurance to our young people.

We have now received confirmation from the DfE that schools will not be required to remain open over the summer holiday for vulnerable children and children of key workers, so the school will close at the end of Wednesday 22nd July 2020 for all students until September.

Whilst the term dates for 2020-21 will remain the same, the start of term in September will look slightly different to usual: I have also enclosed a copy of the term and holiday dates for the academic year for your information.

Thursday 3 September 2020	Staff Training Day
Friday 4 September 2020	Year 7 Induction Day and Staff Training Day
Monday 7 September 2020	All pupils return to school normal time (8:45am)

The main change will be the staggered end to the school day. Year groups will finish the school day at the following times –

Year 7	3.00pm
Year 8	3.05pm
Year 9	3.05pm
Year 10	3.10pm
Year 11	3.10pm

**Park on Parkstone - our Park and Walk initiative from our Youth Travel Ambassadors.**

This is a campaign set and run by our pupils to ease the congestion in Wych Elm Road, which is a health and safety issue for our pupils. It also eases the pressure on Wych Elm Road for the residents. In addition it provides pupils with an exercise on their way to school which is of benefit to their learning ability.

It has been brought to our attention that parked vehicle engines are left idling whilst waiting for pupils to emerge from school. Leaving an engine running causes unnecessary air pollution and we would ask parents to refrain from doing this. Children are especially susceptible to pollutants from vehicle exhaust emissions particularly those with asthma. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**Farewells**

I would like to offer my personal thanks for the dedication that the former Senior Prefects; Seth Wylie, Imogen Newton-Ford, Callum Galsworthy and Grace Faulkner have given to their roles and we all wish them every success in the future.

As is regrettable but understandable at the end of any school term we have to say goodbye to members of our staff team. At the end of this academic year we say goodbye to:

Ms Garriga-Rovira – Teacher of Modern Languages  
Ms Warriar - Teacher of English  
Mrs Day – Teacher of Technology

**New staff members**

Mrs Ozmen – Head of ICT  
Mrs Purcell – Lead Practitioner – MFL  
Mr Cannon – Head of Geography  
Mr Deane – Head of MFL  
Ms Bolger – Teacher of Business  
Mr Dutta – Gupta – Teacher of MFL  
Ms Coupe – Teacher of English  
Mrs Barrow – Teacher of Art  
Mr Coombes – Teacher of English

**Homework/Revision**

There will be no compulsory work set for the break. Instead, students should concentrate on catching up with any missing tasks and produce revision materials to help consolidate their learning over the last term.

**End of year reports**

We will be sending out reports to all students by the end of term. These will be slightly different from previous years due to students working from home.

**Risk assessment**

Our risk assessment for the school for re-opening will be uploaded onto our website. It is important that all students and parents read these updates.

I look forward to implementing these plans and getting back to school in September.

Yours sincerely,



Scott McGuinness  
Head Teacher