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Dear Parent/Carer,

In my 23 year teaching career I think I can safely say that never has there been a year like this one and as we plan for September I feel next year will be again a very different year from the normal, later in this letter I will give you some of the details regarding the changes

I would like to thank you wholeheartedly for your ongoing support as we strive to raise standards together, so that all students have learning experiences at Erdington Academy that they deserve. To support this, and in preparation for the new academic year in September, may I remind you of the following expectations:

September Plans and Return:

To meet with current DFE guidance the academy day in September will look different. The day will be staggered to reduce the number of students arriving and leaving the site at any one time, please see below for these times. It is important that all students arrive at the correct time and gate, if a student has a sibling they must not remain at the gates at the start or end of the day or try to come in through the wrong gate.

	Arrival time	Period 1	End of day
Years 8, 10	08:25	08:30	14:20
Years 7, 9 11	09:15	09:20	15:10

Can I remind you that from September attendance to school in compulsory.

Please ensure your child uses the following access point to enter and leave the academy.

Year 7:	9:15	Main driveway leading to the front student entrance
Year 8:	8:25	Path alongside the main entrance leading to the front student entrance
Year 9:	9:15	Path alongside the main entrance leading to the front student entrance
Year 10:	8:25	Back gate
Year 11:	9:15	Back gate

Year Group "Bubbles"

Students will remain in Year Group bubbles, which means they will only study with, and have contact with students in their year group. They will study in separate areas of the academy as far as possible.

These allocated year areas are:

Year 7	Top corridor rooms 25 - 37
Year 8	Top Corridor rooms 7-21
Year 9	A1-A6
Year 10	English block
Year 11	Art- DT- room 54

When students arrive they will enter the school and go to the "home room" this will be allocated on the first day in September. In September we will start students at differing times to help support this adjustment, these are:

Thursday 3rd September: Year 7 – 9.20 am Year 11 – 10.10 am
Friday 4th September: Year 8 – 8.30 am Year 9 – 11.00 am Year 10 – 11.20 am

Travel and Face Masks:
Currently face masks are to be worn on public transport and some students may wish to wear if walking to school. Once students arrive at school face masks are currently not required, students need to store masks in a bag ready for use when leaving site. If guidance changes over the summer, we will inform you all and update our practice.

Academy Uniform Expectations

Thank you to all the parents and carers for ensuring we got off to a smart start for this academic year. The uniform standards really do reflect the Academy's ambition and standards. We are proud of our Academy uniform and expect students to represent our high standards at all times both to and from the Academy. A full list of uniform expectations is on the Academy website; however, I have summarised some key points below:

Ties – Each student should have a school tie with their House colours. There are two different ties. One for Key Stage 3 (Year 7 & 8) and one for KS4 (Years 9, 10 & 11.). Ties should always been worn and never carried in pockets or in a student's hand.

School Bag – Must be able to carry an A4 work book and made of a robust or weather resistant fabric. **Pouches are not permitted in school.**

Foot wear – Black shoes. Shoes should be of polishable material and should have black laces only. Girls could have low heels. Training shoes, boots, canvas shoes, Nike Air Max, Vans, Converse or other similar labelled footwear are not allowed.

PE Kit – Erdington Academy branded PE top, bottoms and shorts are required for all PE lessons.

Haircuts must NOT be extreme and must be on the natural spectrum (this is at the Head of Academy's discretion). Can I remind you that for the first day back lines or patterns are not to be shaved into student's hair.

A uniform isolation room is operated for any students who do not meet the Academy standards. Please contact your child's Head of House if you have any questions. High standards of appearance and building a real sense of community are important.

Drinks in School

We encourage healthy lifestyles, so no isotonic drinks, energy drinks or fizzy drinks can be brought into the Academy; this includes Red Bull and Lucozade. Students can bring in a bottle of water if they wish, and they can purchase water and juice on the premises. There are also water fountains available.

Hopefully at some point next year I will be able to look forward to meeting many of you at some of the events we have planned, and will write to you again in September with the dates and details of these.

A reminder that the Academy will close for students from Friday 17th July 2020 at normal time and reopen on Thursday 3rd September 2020; further details will be on the academy's website.

I hope you have an enjoyable and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Mallett
Head of Academy