



The Birley Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

Headteacher: Gina Newton

Address: Birley Lane,
Sheffield S12 3BP

Telephone: 0114 239 2531

enquiries@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk

5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will know by now we are now in the situation where, because of lockdown, I again have to shut the school for most children and switch the Academy curriculum to remote learning. I can assure you that my staff and I are devastated by this as we desperately want to be in classrooms teaching our students. However, this is out of our hands and so we, along with everyone else, will do what we need to stay safe.

Remote learning via Sharepoint

For the vast majority of our students learning will now switch to the work on SharePoint. Work here is constantly updated and is accessible to all students. It's also a way for you as parents to support your child with their learning. Students should aim to follow their usual timetable throughout the day.

If your child has access to suitable IT (WiFi, laptops, tablets, smartphones) they should use Microsoft Sharepoint. This is because we have;

Recorded teacher explanations to support their learning

Clear instructions as to what tasks need completing

All the resources they need

This is the link: <https://leadacademytrust.sharepoint.com/sites/BirleySecondaryAcademy>

Students need to log on with their email address and usual password.

Once on the Student Sharepoint, your child will be able to access the resources for all of their subjects, for the appropriate week.

If their password needs resetting, please contact Mrs Gillham at

leoniegillham@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk. Please also contact Mrs Gillham if you would like to borrow a laptop. We have a number of laptops that we are now able to lend out if your child does not have enough access to a suitable device at home. We will be prioritising Y11 and Y10 in the first instance but if you have a child in any year group and you would like to be considered to borrow a laptop then please get in touch.

If your child does not have access to suitable IT, we will provide paper resources which can be collected from reception. Please let us know if that is the case.

Registration

Students will be expected to log in every day to register that they are attending their lessons. They do this via the link that will be sent out daily.

Contacting teachers

Teachers will be available live online, contactable through email for any students who require help with their lesson on remote learning. They are available to help with explanations, feedback on work, and give reassurance. Please encourage your child to contact their teachers during the lesson.



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Free School Meals

At the time of writing we have not yet had clarification from the government about the provision for children who have a free school meal. For the next two weeks The Birley Academy have made private arrangements with a local company to deliver hampers with ingredients for lunches in them. Please be assured that we will do this for as long as we need to until the government or Local Authority put in a wider solution. If you are eligible for FSM but are not yet claiming your hamper than you can do so by contacting Alistair Mann at alistairmann@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk.

We realise that circumstances are changing for our communities all the time. If you feel that you may now qualify for free school meals then please use this form to apply:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/utilities/form/schools-and-childcare/free-school-meals-start>

Alternatively, if you are experiencing financial difficulty even though you do not qualify, then we will do all we can to help. Please contact Mr Mann on the above address.

Parents' evenings

We have invested in a system called school cloud which we have been using to conduct parents' evenings remotely. We intend to continue to hold parents' evenings as scheduled in our calendar. We will be sending out the instructions of how to use this in time for your first consultation.

Communication

We will keep in touch with you regularly through updates, newsletters and bulletins and social media. We love to know what wonderful projects or students are involved in and we like to celebrate their achievements. You can follow us on social media:



@birleyacademy



@birleyhead



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/birleyacademyparents>

Children of Critical Workers and those classed as vulnerable

The school will remain open for some students from the above categories. The academy day will run from 9.00am-2.30 pm. However, detention time will run from 2.30-3.00pm in the unlikely event that it is needed. All students will follow the online learning curriculum. The expectations and rules for these students remain the same as at every other time. They should attend on time, with the correct equipment and in full uniform. I would particularly remind you about the rules around mobile phones and other electrical devices. Although the kitchen will be open to provide lunches for students with FSM we would request all other students to bring a packed lunch with them to reduce the amount of moving about and the amount of contact in school.

Students will continue to be taught in bubbles and are expected to remain in their bubbles. I remind you of this addendum to our behaviour policy:



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Summary:

Our expectations of students under the Covid guidance is the same as normal: students will understand and adhere to the rules; the difference is that health, safety and well-being is at stake and therefore infringements of the rules will be seen as serious.

Staff will use the rewards and consequence system through Go4Schools, with a C3 potentially resulting in a fixed term exclusion

Where staff see issues with students following guidance in social time and entering and exiting the Academy there will be a 'remind and inform' protocol. These incidents will be recorded to establish examples and patterns of particular behaviour.

There will be on-call but no internal work-room.

This approach is different from last lockdown when we were asked to provide childcare only. This time we are asked to provide education, hence the need for a more formal approach to their time in the academy.

Support and Wellbeing

We recognise that this lockdown is particularly hard for all members of our academy community. We hold student wellbeing very dear and would like to remind you that on the website there are a number of activities and resources to support students-

<https://www.birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Year Leaders and Key workers are available by email and will be happy to make phone calls to check in with children who are struggling or need someone to talk to. I would also like to remind you of these useful sites:

<https://view.flodesk.com/pages/5f327a7431568a00264b1e58>

Dominique Thompson's excellent guide

Door 43 (a forum for young people to discuss concerns)

Door43@sheffieldfutures.org.uk

08082758892

Epic Friends (NHS initiative aimed at supporting young people's wellbeing)

EPICFRIENDS.co.uk

<https://www.kooth.com/> offers support with mental health and wellbeing



Safeguarding

A reminder that the DSL for the school is Mr Jones, Deputy Headteacher who can be contacted at:

MarkJones@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk and Miss Abbott is the safeguarding officer:

JessicaAbbott@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk .

If you have any safeguarding concerns about your child or any other child in the academy then please contact them. If your child has any worries or concerns then they should talk to their Year Leader, Form Tutor or any member of staff that they feel comfortable with.



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Out of hours, or in the school holidays the number for the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub is **0114 273 4855**

And finally

During the past months I have been absolutely astounded by the maturity, resilience and honesty of our students at The Birley Academy. Thank you for supporting us to support and teach them. We know that we all live in difficult times and we are all facing the challenges that they inevitably bring. We have been overwhelmed here at the academy with your unwavering positivity for us in all that we are doing. Please be assured that we will continue to do everything we can at The Birley Academy to work with you to ensure that your children receive the best learning, support and genuine care that we can possibly give them.

Yours faithfully

Gina Newton
Headteacher



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