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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parents/Carers,

After the last five months of uncertainty and constant change, it brings all the staff at the Academy so much pleasure to welcome all students back for the start of the new term. A very special welcome to all our new students and their families, and we very much hope you will enjoy being part of the Brompton Academy community.

## COVID – 19

We do understand, however that, as well as being excited and happy about seeing friends and staff again and resuming face-to-face lessons, some parents/carers and students may also be anxious about the return to school and the resumption of a more normal routine.

I wanted, therefore, to set your minds at rest by telling you about the stringent and comprehensive practical measures which we have been working on over the last few months and which are now in place, ready to ensure the safest possible return to school for everyone at the beginning of the Autumn Term 2020.

The document and accompanying letter provides an overview of the in-depth scenario planning which has taken place whilst the academy was closed and all through the holidays. The plans covering every aspect of the safe return to school for all students and staff and we are now ready to go. The full risk assessment will also be available on the website should you wish to read it.

As with all aspects of this pandemic, we must reserve the right to review the plans as necessary and implement any changes arising from revisions to Government policy or changes in local circumstances.

## Celebrating Diversity: Tackling Discrimination

Our CEO, Judy Rider wrote to you with the above titled letter in June.

“I know that many BAME students and staff feel happy attending and working within a UKAT academy. However, over the past couple of weeks we have, through direct communication with some of our BAME families, and through some student social media posts, seen that some of our students do not always feel they have a valued voice, and that their educational experiences are not always as positive as they should be. A real feeling emerges that often their race - which is a fundamental part of their identities - is not acknowledged and appreciated enough in our educational setting. I think this is a fair comment. Although there have been some specific steps by individual academies, even in the past year, to address

inequality where we have perceived it, we have not moved swiftly enough - we now need to move further forward with focus and determination.”

From the outset, we will immerse ourselves in the process of positively engaging with our BAME students, families and staff, in working to bring about systemic change and improve our academies, to promote more inclusive practices and reflect different cultures and backgrounds, and tackle racism with vigour and endeavour. What is life really like for BAME students studying every day in our academies? What are we actively doing to ensure our students' experiences promote and celebrate and value all our differences? If you are in lessons every day, and not one example in the learning materials (that is presented by the teacher) reflects BAME students' experiences of their life, their backgrounds and cultures, or people of colour are not represented in resources that underpin our lesson delivery, then what is that saying to them?

As a starting place we will be welcoming your views and opinions regarding this matter in the next few weeks, starting with a survey.

### **Start of term arrangements**

We have a staggered start to the beginning of term so that Year 7 and 12 have an opportunity to settle in. We look forward to welcoming students as follows:

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Year 7 (8.40am-3pm) and Year 12 (9am-1pm)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – All Year Groups

Usually on their first day, parents/carers of new Year 7 are welcome to bring their children onsite for the first morning, however we ask that you do not congregate at the entrance to the Academy. If you are dropping off, we would appreciate if you would remain in your car or at the entrance gate, if possible. There will be lots of staff around and we can settle any nerves and get them off to a flying start. Year 7 do not need to bring their PE kit in for the first two days, and thereafter only as indicated on their timetables.

### **Exam Results 2020**

Despite all of the last-minute changes, as well as the final reversal on their original decision by the Government, which meant teacher assessments would be the final determiner for grades, students have now received their well-deserved results. We are extremely proud of our students' successes in the 2020 public examinations at GCSE, A level and BTEC exams and for their perseverance during incredibly challenging circumstances. Pearson's, the examination board for BTEC, are still reviewing changes to BTEC grades. We will contact students as soon as we are in receipt of the final grades for collection. We wish all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best as they move to the next stage of their journeys.

### **Parent/Carer consultation evenings and other year group events**

The Senior Leader responsible for your child's year group will be sending out a number of dates for your diary including parent/carers consultation events. There will be many other dates and events that you will be informed about throughout the year by email or text, so



please ensure you keep the Academy informed of any changes to your email address or mobile phone number.

## Assessment/Exams

Please remember at GCSE there are hardly any subjects that still have course work – student's success rests on doing well in the exam itself. This is why we need to give them continual practise at sitting tasks and exams under formal conditions, including Access Arrangements for students with additional needs. You will receive dates for the exams weeks so you can support your child in revising. Most tasks and exams test not only what the student has studied in the last weeks leading up to the exam but also test previous knowledge, skills and understanding acquired. All exams will focus on developing students' thinking and reasoning skills. Questions will be set which require extended writing. These questions carry most weight in the public exams and students need practice at these.

## Personal Tutors

Students will have daily contact with their Personal Tutor (PT). Having a consistent point of contact for each student and parents/carers will really help to further develop our strong sense of community at the academy and offer students' academic and wellbeing support. Your child's Personal Tutor is your first point of contact at the Academy. They can gather information about academic progress or can help get you in touch with the correct person at the Academy to support you and your child. The best way to get in touch with them is via email or, alternatively, contact main reception to arrange a phone call.

## Wellbeing

As you realise from previous letters, your children's wellbeing is absolutely central to our ambitions for them. As a reminder we do have a counselling service available and students have access to our mindfulness activities. Please contact your child's Personal Tutor or use our refernow email at [refernow@universityofkentacademiustrust.org.uk](mailto:refernow@universityofkentacademiustrust.org.uk) if you wish to inform us of any concerns or support that you require.

## Attendance

Excellent levels of attendance and punctuality to school are key factors in ensuring your child reaches their maximum learning potential. The overwhelming majority of our students attend well and are regularly on time. However, there are a small number of students who regularly arrive late, without good reason, and this is unacceptable. From the beginning of the Autumn term those students who are late without an authorised reason will receive a same day sanction. These sanctions will range from a short fifteen-minute detention, to a parent/carer meeting, and potentially if persistently late, time in our Internal Exclusion Room.

## Uniform

We are looking forward to greeting Year 7 students in our Academy uniform. The uniform policy at Brompton Academy is rigorously followed and students should adhere to our strict uniform code at all times. We make no apologies for insisting on high standards at all times. We know that not all parents/carers agree with the uniform policy, however by sending your



child to the Academy you are agreeing to our policies. We have been really clear through our inductions to the Academy what our standards are and we therefore expect compliance to that. Please ensure you and your child fully understand the uniform policy on our website, specifically in regard to hair, make-up and jewellery. We will send students home for breaching uniform rules. As a reminder no makeup or jewellery is allowed for Years 7 through to Year 11.

In order to adhere to safeguarding for COVID-19, we ask that students wear their PE kit to school on days they have PE or Dance on their timetable until further notice. Students will not have access to changing facilities and, therefore, will remain in their PE uniform for entire day. As cleanliness and hygiene remain very important during this time, we hope this will provide an additional opportunity to launder your child's regular school uniform in the week.

### **University of Kent Academies Trust**

We are pleased to be part of the University of Kent Academies Trust. The University continues to drive forward the standards agenda, provide additional curriculum opportunities and experiences for our young people – all to open minds as to future pathways and progression routes. In addition to this, we will continue to collaborate with Chatham Grammar School; ensuring students in both academies have the best possible resources, teaching and opportunities available to them. We look forward to informing you of the many opportunities available to our young people and their families over the coming year.

### **Term Dates for Students 2020 - 21**

#### **Term 1**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 to Friday 16th October 2020

#### **Term 2**

Monday 2nd November 2020 to Thursday 17th December 2020

#### **Term 3**

Monday 4th January 2021 to Friday 12th February 2021

#### **Term 4**

Monday 22nd February 2021 to Thursday 1st April 2021

#### **Term 5**

Monday 19th April 2021 to Friday 28th May 2021

#### **Term 6**



Monday 7th June 2021 to Friday 16th July 2021

\* Staff INSET Days to be confirmed.\*

With very best wishes to you and your family, I and all the staff look forward to meeting and speaking to you in the year ahead.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Robertson  
**Principal**  
Brompton Academy

