

# Ernest Bevin College and Sixth Form Centre

A Specialist Sports, Mathematics & Computing College

Beechcroft Road, Tooting, London, SW17 7DF

Tel: 020 8672 8582 Fax: 020 8767 5502

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Principal: Ann Keane-Maher

10 September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I am sure you are very much looking forward to your son or daughter(s) starting back at the College full time over the next few days. Most year groups have been in College this week for interviews or induction. We have all been very impressed by the resilience they have shown and the great sense of positivity and enthusiasm.

Messages have been sent out confirming the staggered start and end times and entry points, these are summarised in a table below.

Year	First day	Entrance	Classes start	Exit
Year 7	11/9/20	8.30 Sports Centre	8.45	2.15 Back Gate on Glenburnie Road
Year 8	14/9/20	8.30 Main Building	8.45	2.15 Main Building
Year 9	14/9/20	8.30 Stairs to the left of Reception	8.45	2.15 Main building
Year 10	14/9/20	8.45 Main Building	9.00	2.30 Main building
Year 11	11/9/20	8.45 Sports Centre	9.00	2.30 Reception
Years 12 and 13	14/9/20	9.00 Sports Centre	9.15	1.20 Sports Centre

Students will be able to buy meals and snacks during the day, but are welcome to bring (healthy) packed lunches. The weather next week looks to be very warm so please ensure your son has a water bottle with him. The water fountains are turned off, but we will allow students to refill bottles. College uniform must be worn smartly by students in years 7 to 11. However students are allowed to wear their College PE or Games kit to and from College and in all classes on their activity days. These are:

Year 7	Tuesday
Year 8	Wednesday
Year 9	Thursday
Year 10	Monday
Year 11	Friday

Student in years 12 and 13 must wear suitable clothing in line with the expectations and have their ID card worn on a lanyard at all times when on the premises.

We have been in contact with our uniform supplier (Hewitt's of Croydon) and are aware that there have been some delays with online orders and long queues at the store. They have assured us that

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their stock levels are good, queues are now shorter and they are working through the backlog of orders. Please ensure that your son is in the best possible uniform and is fully equipped for the day at College.

Local residents will be aware that much of Tooting is now a 'Low Traffic Neighbourhood'. This has led to the road outside the College becoming extremely quiet, however the broader impact on traffic flows and bus journey times is significant. This is likely to have an impact on the journeys of many members of the College community. We do ask that students travel using active transport as much as possible, we have improved the bike parking at the College. Bikes and scooters must be securely locked, they are not to be brought into the building. Please be aware that electric scooters are not allowed on public roads or pavements unless they are part of a hire scheme. Students using buses or trains must wear masks.

Whilst we welcome the students back, and will strive to offer all possible support, it is important that students and families recognise that the expectations of behaviour and attitude are high. We cannot allow any time to be wasted as every student has lost out on learning in the past 6 months. We ask that all families speak to their sons and daughters and support this message. The College has a new Behaviour for Learning Policy which will provide real clarity on expectations and what happens should a student let themselves down.

It is vitally important that we know where students are in their learning. All students will have assessments in their subjects over the next few weeks and year 7 will take baseline tests on Tuesday 15 September. Details of these are being sent out separately.

All students will be briefed on the specific procedures in place whilst we have the 'Covid' timetable in place. It is absolutely vital that they adhere to these, specifically around hand washing / sanitising, covering coughs, social distance, remaining in their bubbles etc. Any member of the College community who behaves in a way that puts others at risk can expect very significant consequences. I have included some frequently asked questions from families below. These will be put on the website.

I take this opportunity to wish all the students and their families the very best for the next term. Let's hope we can get through it with the absolute minimum of disruption from Covid.

Yours,

Ann Keane Mayer  
Principal

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## You ask, we answer

### **What is the College doing to minimise the risk from Covid-19?**

It is important to recognise that we minimise not eliminate risk. We have students in bubbles, which work in zones to reduce the numbers of contacts. Bubbles are designed to allow students to work in situations where social distancing is not possible. The risk of infection is reduced by limiting the number of people that a person is exposed to. Students will work in a group in one room for the majority of their time. We have reduced or eliminated shared resources. Entrances, exits, break and lunch are staggered. Handwash stations, sanitisers, tissues and lidded bins are provided.

### **How long will the 'Covid' timetable go on for?**

We do not have a fixed date, though it is likely to remain in place into 2021 at least. This will be determined by the success of the efforts to control the virus at a national and global level.

### **Is my son/daughter getting a full curriculum?**

We have created an interim timetable which allows students to study all their subjects. There have to be some changes in some subjects, especially practical ones.

### **What should I do if my child shows symptoms of Covid-19**

Keep them at home. Organise for them to be tested (at a drive through for speed). Inform the College of the symptoms and then of the result of the test.

### **What happens if there is a diagnosed case of Covid-19 in the College?**

We will work with Public Health England and follow their advice and recommendations. The response could be that one group of students is asked to self-isolate for 14 days. Staff have been asked to prepare work on Canvas which can be switched on at short notice should we have to revert to home learning.

### **What happens if there is a general rise in infection rates locally or nationally?**

We will follow the expectations from the government. This might include partial or complete closure, with a return to remote working. Students could be asked to attend College on a 2 week rota.

### **Do students and staff have to wear masks?**

At present there is no expectation for anyone to wear a mask in schools except where there is a high rate of infection locally. Ernest Bevin College's stance at present is that people may wear a mask should they wish to. Should the guidance change then we will of course adapt our position, for example it could be that masks would be worn in communal areas. Any mask must be properly stored when not being worn.

### **What will the College day look like?**

Students will arrive and sanitise or wash their hands. They will then walk to assembly or their teaching room for pastoral period. Students in years 7 to 11 will have 5 lessons in that room for 4 days of the week. Break and lunch are staggered and only one group will be in the playground or serving area at a time. On their activity day students will move around the College to Games, DT and Computing.

### **Why does my son appear to have changed tutor groups?**

There has been a long term plan to move from organising tutor groups by ability towards a system of mixed ability groups with setting organised at subject level where appropriate. These mixed groups are planned to have an equal range of ability and need. This is the system which is operated in the

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majority of schools. Lessons are then taught in ability sets (where several tutor groups are blocked together) or in mixed ability groups. This process of change at Ernest Bevin has been ongoing since summer 2019 and has nothing to do with the pandemic. Students in the purple and green cohorts have started the College with this arrangement, though there have been some minor changes in the purple cohort.

The yellow tie and blue tie classes have been completely reorganised to create mixed ability groupings. The red ties were already in broadly mixed groups since changes were made last September. In year 12 and 13 the tutor groups may reflect the courses taken or are mixed. During the 'Covid' timetable students in years 7 to 9 are taught in their mixed ability tutor groups. Students in years 10 and 11 are in groups which reflect their options and will be mixed ability in the main. In years 12 and 13 the students are taught in the subject classes, which have entry requirements. Once we revert to our planned timetable setting will restart.