



# nishkamhighschool

birmingham



13 July 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and well.

As you are aware, the government has instructed all schools to open in full **to all students** from the beginning of the next academic year. All of our staff are thoroughly looking forward to welcoming all students back onsite, full time and providing them with a sense of normalcy and routine.

Nishkam High School Birmingham will, therefore, be opening as planned on **Tuesday 1st September 2020 for our new, Year 7 pupils, only**. Our new Year 7 cohort will have the school to themselves so that they can receive a traditional induction that COVID-19 has prevented from happening during this summer term.

**On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, school will be open for pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13.**

**On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, school will be open to all pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.**

The safety of our pupils and staff is, and will remain, our top priority and the Senior Leadership team has been closely monitoring and reading government guidance as it has been published. We will be following that government guidance to minimise risk of contracting COVID-19 within the school environment.

This will include:

- Clearly defined movement procedures in and outside the school building
- An increased cleaning regime throughout school
- A request for increased hygiene by means of hand washing at regular intervals
- Organising pupils so they only remain within the same group or 'bubble'
- Collective worship will take place each day for a single 'bubble'; assemblies will also follow that pattern

In this letter I will be sharing my expectations of all students when they return to school in September. I will also outline how the new school day will be approached. These can be summarised into the following categories:

1. NHSB 'bubbles'
2. Uniform, behaviour and attendance
3. Equipment
4. Health and Safety
5. Illness
6. Travel to and from school
7. Format of the School day

## **1. NHSB 'bubbles'**

As per the government guidance, we will be operating a 'bubble' system.

In Years 7, 8 and 9, these will comprise half year group 'bubbles'.

In Years 10 and 11, this will comprise full year group 'bubbles'.

The sixth form will comprise a 'bubble' of its own.

In order to minimise any mixing of these bubbles, they will be taught in specific areas of the school where the students will, largely, remain in classrooms and staff will move to them. There will need to be some movement around the school to ensure that all students can access P.E., Music, Drama, Computing and Art; these rooms will be subject to extra cleaning procedures. We will also be ensuring that because staff are moving around the classrooms, a strict 2 metre distancing is maintained between staff and students at all times.

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Principal: Mr. D. Kearns

Nishkam High School is a part of the Nishkam School Trust | Chief Executive Officer: Dr B. S. Mahon Company Number: 7522245 | Registered Office: Nishkam School Trust, Head Office, Great King Street North, Hockley, Birmingham, B19 2LF



## **2. Uniform, behaviour and attendance**

Uniform should be worn as normal with the exception of the day(s) that your child has P.E. On those days, your child can wear his/her *Nishkam P.E. kit* to school, throughout the school day and on the journey home. This will remove the need for the changing rooms to be used.

Our behaviour policy is built around our shared virtues. That will remain the case. However, I would like parents to be aware that actions such as sneezing at someone else, spitting and deliberately ignoring social distancing measures will be viewed as a serious matter by the school during this COVID-19 period, particularly. Your support in ensuring that your child understands why such actions will be viewed so seriously is expected and appreciated.

Attendance at school in the new academic year has returned to being a legal requirement. During COVID-19, the government mitigated some of the rules around attendance but that has now ended. All students will be expected to attend school and I am sure that we appreciate the opportunity to return to that situation.

## **3. Equipment**

To help minimise contact between students, can you ensure that your child comes to school with all of the basic equipment that they will need. We will be providing paper, textbooks and exercise books. An indicative list of equipment that students will need includes: pens (black/blue and a different colour – green would be really helpful), pencil, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, pencil crayons, hand gel, tissues, protractor, calculator etc.

## **4. Health and Safety**

‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ – we strongly advise that your child has tissues with them at all times. However, tissues and hand gel will be provided by the school and hand sanitisers are readily available throughout the school building. Students will have the opportunity to wash their hands on arrival at school, at break time, at lunchtime and at the end of the school day.

As mentioned above, we will minimise the amount of movement around the building during the school day. KS3 lessons will mostly be taught in form groups so the students remain in one classroom situated on the second floor of the main building, while the teacher moves between classrooms.

Year 10 lessons will be taught in classrooms on the first floor of the main building. Students will need to move between designated classrooms on that floor so that we can deliver all of their chosen GCSE subjects. No other students will be taught on that floor.

Year 11 lessons will be taught in classrooms on the ground floor of the main building. Students will need to move between designated classrooms on that floor so that we can deliver all of their chosen GCSE subjects. No other students will be taught on that floor.

Sixth form lessons will be taught in the old building. Students will need to move between designated classrooms in that building so that we can deliver all of their chosen A Level subjects. Some younger students will use the Sports Hall in the old building but social distancing measures will be strictly enforced.

In addition to the intensive cleaning at the end of each school day, school will be periodically cleaned during the day to further keep the site as safe as possible.

## **5. Illness**

If your child or a family member living with you is ill with COVID-19 symptoms (new continuous cough, or high temperature, or has a loss of or a change in their normal sense of taste or smell), your child must stay at home. You must ensure that you book a COVID-19 test for your child or family member. Please under no circumstances send them into school.

The latest government guidance on testing, symptoms and public health advice can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If your child becomes ill whilst in school and exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be isolated and you will be called to collect him/her immediately. The isolation will be in a room designated for this purpose only.

## **6. Travel to and from school**

The government have issued guidance about students using dedicated school transport to get to and from school. The guidance states that there is...

*‘... a distinction between dedicated school transport and wider public transport:*

*by dedicated school transport, we mean services that are used only to carry pupils to school. This includes statutory home to school transport, but may also include some existing or new commercial travel routes, where they carry school pupils only'*

In our case, this is **Thandi Executive Coaches**, who plan to run a normal service from the start of September. You have most likely already been contacted by them regarding the 2020/2021 service and payment schedule. Points to note include that the coach your child will use to travel to/from school **WILL NOT** be used for any other purpose throughout the school day. Thandi Executive Coaches will explain separately how they will ensure a safe, hygienic way for students to travel on their coaches. As at school, we expect the highest standards of behaviour on the coaches and compliance with all the guidance that Thandi Executive Coaches will stipulate. Because of the use of dedicated school transport, it will be difficult to effectively stagger arrivals or departures to/from school. In the morning on arrival students will go to the designated area below. They will be collected by their form tutors and taken to form rooms or prayer:

- Year 7 – Playground – Compassion/Contentment and Humility/Truth
- Year 8 – Area outside canteen – Compassion/Contentment and Humility/Truth
- Year 9 – Area outside main reception – Compassion/Contentment and Humility/Truth
- Year 10 – Back arches
- Year 11 – School hall
- Sixth Form – Old Building

## **7. Format of the school day**

NHSB will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum in all year groups. Students in KS3 will have a morning break. It will be staggered by year group and will be taken within their half year group 'bubble'. Morning break will take place for 15 minutes within period 3 of the day; that period will, consequently, be 15 minutes shorter than normal for KS3 classes. KS4 and the sixth form will not have a morning break but Years 10 and 11 will have the first of three staggered lunch periods.

<b>8.25am – 8.40am</b>	<b>Collective worship/form time</b>
<b>8.40am – 9.35am</b>	<b>Period 1</b>
<b>9.35am – 10.30am</b>	<b>Period 2</b>
<b>10.30am – 11.25am</b>	<b>Period 3</b> Year 7 break from 10.30am – 10.45am Year 8 break from 10.45am – 11.00am Year 9 break from 11.00am – 11.15am
<b>11.25am – 12.20pm</b>	<b>Period 4</b> Year 10 lunch in canteen from 11.25am – 11.50am; Year 11 in the playground Year 11 lunch in canteen from 11.55am – 12.20pm; Year 10 in the playground
<b>12.20pm – 1.15pm</b>	<b>Period 5</b> Year 7 lunch in canteen from 12.20pm – 12.45pm; Year 8 in the playground Year 8 lunch in canteen from 12.50pm – 1.15pm; Year 7 in the playground
<b>1.15pm – 2.10pm</b>	<b>Period 6</b> Year 9 lunch in canteen from 1.15pm – 1.40pm; sixth form in the old building Sixth form lunch in canteen from 1.45pm – 2.10pm; Year 9 in the playground
<b>2.10pm – 3.05pm</b>	<b>Period 7</b>
<b>3.05pm – 3.20pm</b>	<b>Departure</b>

At the start of the academic year, there will be no extra-curricular activities or school trips. We expect all students to go off site by 3.20 pm so that the school can be thoroughly cleaned. We will review extra-curricular provision when we feel it is safe to do so. We will also review our school calendar in September and send it out to you all as soon as possible.

I appreciate that the above guidance is lengthy and specific. However, I wanted to give you as much clarity as possible at this time about what September will look like. If guidance changes between now and the new academic

year, I will write out to you all again. I am very grateful for all of the support that you have offered during this unprecedented time of school closure.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to make a safe return to school in September. However, we should all remain aware that a cure for the COVID-19 virus has not yet been found. If, for any reason, we might have to close again then I am confident that our approach to remote learning can resume easily and effectively.

I hope that you and your family have a safe and happy summer. I look forward to seeing all of our students in September.

Kind regards,

Mr D. Kearns  
Principal