

# Dudley Academies Trust

Executive offices, Dudley College of Technology  
Priory Villa, 3a Ednam Road, Dudley, West  
Midlands, DY1 1HL  
Chair of Board of Trustees: Lowell Williams  
Chief Executive: Jo Higgins



14/09/20

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Re: Start of the academic year 2020/21**

I hope you are well.

I realise that the start of this academic year has been a particularly anxious time and I want to thank you for your support.

I have now visited all of our academies and I am so impressed by all aspects of our provision. It was lovely to see so many learners and staff looking really pleased to be back. The atmosphere and climate for learning is superb across the Trust. Learners are smart and clearly keen to engage in their lessons and to get back on track in all of their subjects.

I realise that implementing our new regulations is challenging but the sense of collaboration, support and community is so strong. This is a really special feature of Dudley Academies Trust and we are definitely stronger together.

Unfortunately, I can confirm that we have our first case of COVID-19 at The Link Academy. Despite all of the measures we have taken, it was inevitable that we would have a case at some point, at one of our academies. We do, of course, need to be ready for an increase in cases given the current climate and we are confident that we would effectively deal with this situation should it arise.

We have created a new area on each academy and the Trust website under the COVID-19 updates entitled Confirmed Cases. This area includes a live update on the number of cases, if any, within the academy. It also includes step-by-step guidance on the actions each academy would take in the event of a confirmed case. The Link Academy has actioned these steps. We will continue to develop this area of the website to include a Parents Questions & Answers section.

Please be reassured that the health and well-being of our learners, staff, families and the community remains our number one priority.

Yours faithfully

Jo Higgins  
Chief Executive



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