

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025

**RE: Start of the Academic Year 2025-26**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that families are safe and well, and are enjoying the last 2 weeks of what has been an unusually lovely summer of weather here in London.

We would like to start by thanking you for your support of the Academy during the last academic year; we have been able to regularly celebrate the work and achievement of students, which is not possible without parents/carers' support.

To ensure all priorities are clear as we prepare for the start of the 2025-26 Academic Year, I wanted to write to parents with some further details and additional information.

In this letter, you will find key information for the new academic year which will support this goal. If you have any questions or enquiries over the summer, please contact the academy on [mail@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk](mailto:mail@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk)

**Start of the new academic year – September 2025 arrangements**

**Change of student entrance**

We have a **change of student entrance** from September.

Students in Years 7-11 will no longer enter the site through the front of the school on Beechcroft Road; instead, students in Years 7-11 will enter using the gate on Glenburnie Road, which leads directly onto the playground.

(This is currently the gate which students use to exit the academy at the end of the day)

This change is designed to make the morning run more smoothly for several hundred students and to reduce congestion on Beechcroft Road, which is a busy 'through-road' for the area with lots of traffic. For the vast majority of our students, who travel to school from areas around Tooting Bec, Tooting Broadway, Mitcham and Streatham, this will make no difference to journey times. For students coming from the Battersea or Earlsfield direction, students should be prepared for this extra 5-6 minutes of walking time to ensure they are on time.

It is important all students are aware of their role as ambassadors for the academy; their behaviour in the morning when entering the school site must be impeccable, and they should always be considerate to our neighbours and the local community. Students should enter and exit the site calmly, in perfect uniform, without any loitering and with no litter.

Students in Year 12 and 13 will continue to use the entrance and exit to the **Sixth Form Centre on Beechcroft Road**.

**Change of student start time**

Additionally, we wanted to give parents and students advanced notice that, from September 2025, all students in Years 7-13 will be expected to be on site and in the right place by **8:40 every day**. Students not on site when the **gates close at 8:38** will be marked as late.



**Ambition  
Perseverance  
Unity**

**Principal:** Mr Damola Ademolake

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Ernest Bevin Academy  
Beechcroft Road  
Tooting  
London  
SW17 7DF  
t: 0208 672 8582  
e: [mail@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk](mailto:mail@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk)  
w: [ernestbevinacademy.org.uk](http://ernestbevinacademy.org.uk)

### **Induction Week:**

There will be a staggered start to the 2025-26 Academic Year for students.

### **Year 7 and 12 students**

The start of the academic year for students in **Year 7** and **Year 12** will be on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**. It is the expectation that all students are on site and ready for line-ups or assembly at 8:40.

	<b>Entrance</b>	<b>Gate Opens</b>	<b>Gates Close</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Back Gate Glenburnie Road</b>	<b>8:15am</b>	<b>8:38am</b>	<b>3:10pm</b>
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Form Entrance Beechcroft Road</b>	<b>8:15am</b>	<b>8:38am</b>	<b>3:10pm</b>

This day will be a hybrid day of induction activities and lessons; students will be given their induction timetables on arrival.

### **Students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13**

Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 students will return to the Academy on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

	<b>Gate Opens</b>	<b>Gates Close</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>
<b>All years</b>	<b>8:15am</b>	<b>8:38am</b>	<b>3:10pm</b>

Students will have induction activities for part of the morning, and then will attend lessons as per their timetables from P4.

### **Induction timetable**

Throughout the first two days of the academic year, students will be engaging in a series of important induction sessions led by Heads of Year, Tutors and the Senior Leadership Team. These sessions will focus on developing professional routines and habits that all students will need to demonstrate in order to be successful at EBA, later in their chosen career, and throughout their adult life.

### **Attendance**

As we move into a new academic year, we begin with setting new attendance targets for all students in Years 7-13. Our attendance target will now be 96% for all students. It is vital that students have excellent attendance to help ensure they achieve their academic goals.

To support this aim, we will be introducing rewards for students with 100% attendance for the term, and an additional, bigger rewards for students with 100% attendance for the full academy year.

Autumn Term 1	Celebration for all students with <u>100% attendance</u> for the <b>Autumn Term 1</b> (During week of 20 <sup>th</sup> October)
Autumn Term 2	Celebration for all students with <u>100% attendance</u> for the <b>Autumn Term 2</b> (During week of 8 <sup>th</sup> December)
Spring Term 1	Celebration for all students with <u>100% attendance</u> for the <b>Spring Term 1</b> (During week of 9 <sup>th</sup> February)
Spring Term 2	Celebration for all students with <u>100% attendance</u> for the <b>Spring Term 2</b> (During week of 23 <sup>rd</sup> March)
Summer Term 1	Celebration for all students with <u>100% attendance</u> for the <b>Summer Term 1</b> (During week of 18 <sup>th</sup> May)



Summer Term 2	All students with <u>100% attendance</u> for the <b>Academic Year</b> will be invited to an Attendance Rewards Trip to a Theme Park at the end of academic year
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To support your child in maintaining high attendance, we ask parents to:

- Ensure that your child attends the academy every day and support them in meeting their attendance targets.
- Ensure that your child arrives at school on time every day, and is in the right place, by 8:40am. The school gates close promptly at 8:38am.
- Limit your child’s absences to cases of genuine illness. Minor illnesses, such as a headache, cold, temperature or sore throat, should still see students attend school.
- Arrange for any non-urgent appointments to take place outside of school hours.
- Book holidays and events outside of term time. No student will be permitted to take a holiday during term time.

If your child is genuinely ill and cannot attend school, please contact the academy by telephone on 020 8672 8582 by 8:20am on the first day of absence, and every day thereafter until their return.

**Punctuality**

The value of punctuality cannot be emphasised enough, as it significantly impacts on the smooth running of our school. Being punctual is also an essential life-skill, and something on which parents and the academy must work together to drive.

It is imperative we have your support in ensuring our students arrive at school promptly, as this will enable them to benefit from a full day of learning and minimise disruptions to their educational experience.

All students in Years 7-11 need to join their peers at line-up promptly at 8:40am. All academy gates close promptly at 8:38am. To ensure there is an effective and consistent sanction for lateness, we will be applying the following processes every day:

Time	Sanction/Action
8:38am	Student gate closes
Any student who arrives at school between 8:38-9:00am	20min detention at break
Any student who arrives at school after 9:00am	1hr detention at the of the day. (Where lateness is critical or persistent, this sanction will be escalated)

**Uniform**

Uniform plays an essential role in fostering a sense of identity, unity, and pride within our school community. Therefore, it is crucial that all students fully adhere to the published uniform policy which is outlined below. We kindly request your support and assistance in ensuring that students are properly attired in full academy uniform, or in full ‘Business Dress’ for 6<sup>th</sup> Formers, presenting a professional appearance at all times.

Please note - if students arrive in incorrect uniform, they will not be able to attend lessons until it has been corrected.

We have a very clear, full uniform policy explained on our website [here](#)





### **Academy Uniform**

- Blazer must be worn at all times
- EBA jumper
- EBA tie
- School trousers
- Plain white shirt
- Plain black or dark grey socks
- Flat, plain black, leather school shoes, which can be polished

(Please note – there are clear, simple images within our published uniform policy which provide clear guidance, including pictures of the shoes students are expected to wear)

- No trainers of any kind to be worn
- Students should have a school bag of a size suitable for carrying A4 sized folders and books.

### **Outdoor Clothing Items**

- Coats of any colour are permitted. All coats must be removed before entering the building.
- Hoodies are not permitted on site, and will be confiscated if seen

### **Jewellery**

- Students are allowed one wrist-watch. Smart watches are not allowed, and will be confiscated if worn to school
- A maximum of one small plain silver or gold coloured stud earring in each earlobe is permitted
- Earrings containing either genuine or imitation precious stones are not allowed
- Nose studs or other forms of body piercing are not permitted; attempting to cover any piercings with a plaster is not permitted
- No accessories are to be worn around the neck or attached to clothing
- Students are not permitted to wear rings on fingers, or bracelets

No other jewellery items are permitted.

### **Mobile Phones**

There has been a rise in incidents regarding the inappropriate use of mobile phones, and schools across the country now face a constant battle when it comes to mobile phones, and their impact on students' education, safety, and mental health. Therefore, it is important to clarify our position on mobile phones.

- We do not expect mobile phones to be brought into the academy for Yr7-11. However any phones brought on site must be switched off at the gate, and remain off and stored safely in students' bags until they leave site.
- **Hear it, see it, we take it.** Any mobile phone seen or heard on site, for any reason, will be confiscated and stored safely until a parent comes to meet with Head of Year or a member of SLT. Phones will not be returned to students.
- The academy will not investigate issues related to mobile phones that have taken place on the academy premises e.g., loss or theft.
- We expect Parents/Carers are to undertake regular checks to ensure their child is using their mobile phone safely and appropriately.

### **Online safety**

At EBA, we are working hard to ensure that students are taught how to use the internet and social media responsibly and are informed about the risks relating to online activity.



There are still concerns with the use of social media and other online activity outside of the academy premises and outside of the academy hours.

It is critical that all parents/carers take responsibility for their child's online activities, including use of personal devices, social media and IT, particularly during non-school hours. We urge parents to check devices frequently and ensure that they have access to their child's personal passwords and pin numbers for all apps and devices. These checks are vital for keeping your child safe from harmful behaviour and content. If any issues occur online, please report these to the online provider via their 'report' process. You are also able to report matters directly to the police.

Parents/carers can access the following online resources for advice:

- [Thinkuknow](#)
- [Childnet](#)
- [Parent Info](#)
- [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

### **Catering arrangements**

We operate a cashless payment system called ParentPay. The system removes the need for students to bring cash into school, ensuring school purchases are completely cashless. When students are enrolled, parents are emailed their login details, and a step-by-step guide on how to register with the ParentPay system.

It is important that parents/carers check ParentPay accounts regularly in order to support your child to budget effectively, and to ensure that accounts are kept in credit. This year, we have noticed that some accounts have accumulated significant debts. It is important to note that debts do roll over to the next academic year, so managing this account and checking of child's purchases frequently is very important, particularly during the current global economic challenges.

If you would like to discuss any issues or are experiencing financial difficulties, please do contact your child's Head of Year. If you have any issues accessing your account, please email the admin team at [mail@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk](mailto:mail@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk)

A reminder that any packed lunches should contain:

- Starchy foods, such as bread (sliced bread, pitta bread, wraps, bagels), pasta, potatoes, couscous; choose wholegrain where possible.
- At least one portion of fruit or vegetables.
- Dairy food or substitutes, such as cheese, yoghurt or non-dairy alternatives.
- Meat, fish, or another source of protein, such as eggs, beans and pulses, hummus, and falafel.
- Water or flavoured water.

Packed lunches should NOT include or contain:

- Nuts, sesame seeds and poppy seeds – including peanut butter, Nutella and cereal bars containing nuts as we have several students who have a severe allergy. We are strictly a 'nut free' academy.
- Confectionery such as chocolate bars, biscuits and sweets.
- Individual cakes are allowed but encourage your child to eat these only as part of a balanced meal. Alternatives could include cereal bars (not containing nuts), or some fruit.





**Ernest Bevin Academy**

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- Any drinks other than water/ flavoured water.
- We do not allow fizzy drinks or energy drinks. These will be confiscated and disposed of.

### **Medical needs**

If your child needs to take medication in school, please ensure that you alert our medical welfare officer, Ms Ngombo. If your child has a long-term medical need, or new diagnosis, please ensure that again Ms Ngombo is informed. We will liaise with parents and medical practitioners to ensure that we have the relevant treatment information where health care plans are needed.

Please note: Medication will only be accepted into the academy if it is:

- Within its directed 'use by' date.
- Labelled with the child's name.
- Complete with instructions for administration, dosage and storage.
- Complete with a signed parental consent form.
- In its original container/box/bottle, as dispensed by the pharmacist or as sold over the counter. (The exception to this is Insulin which, although unlikely to be in its original packaging, must still be in date. Insulin should always be contained within an insulin pen or pump.)

Staff at Ernest Bevin Academy will not be able to administer complimentary or 'over the counter' medicines due to the combination of active ingredients.

I understand there is a lot of information within this letter, but I hope that parents and students have found this useful, and are clear on how we intend to start the 2025-25 Academic Year.

All staff here at EBA are committed to working hard, together with students and families, to help shape an aspirational and successful future for all. Our dedicated teachers and support staff are ready to support every student in achieving their full academic potential, and we will continue to foster an environment where all students feel valued, challenged, and inspired. Alongside this, all staff are proud to be part of a school with such a rich history, and a community that embraces our school values ambition, perseverance, and unity.

Lastly, we are excited about the appointment of our new Principal and the leadership, high standards and ambition he will bring.

With your continued support, we are confident that the year ahead will be one of growth, achievement, and shared success.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing all the students return in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Daniel Blakemore  
Deputy Principal



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t: 0208 672 8582

e: [mail@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk](mailto:mail@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk)

w: [ernestbevinacademy.org.uk](http://ernestbevinacademy.org.uk)