

1st September 2026

RE: Return To School Arrangements September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer break. As we begin a new academic year, and as Ernest Bevin Academy enters its **100-year celebrations**, our mission remains clear: **to become one of the top-performing boys' schools in the country**. This year, we are strengthening the culture that underpins that ambition. Our values of **Ambition, Perseverance and Unity** will be lived daily through our expectations, our systems, and the opportunities we provide for every student. Below are the key arrangements for September.

Start of Term Arrangements

Please note the following arrangements for the beginning of the new academic year:

Dates	Arrangement
Tuesday 1 st to Wednesday 2 nd September	INSET day – School will be closed to students
Thursday 3 rd September	Yr7 and 12 induction day School closed to Yr8, 9, 10, 11 and 13
Friday 4 th September	All students return to school

Academic & ATL Rankings: Clarity, Ambition and Professionalism

This year, we are introducing **Academic Rankings** and **Attitude to Learning (ATL) Rankings** to give students clear, consistent feedback on their progress and professionalism.

Academic Rankings

Students will receive:

- A rank in each subject
- An **average rank** across all subjects
- A position within the year group

These rankings determine placement into four groups:

- **Pioneer** – targeting grades 8–9
- **Unity** – targeting grade 7
- **Perseverance** – targeting grade 5
- **Ambition** – targeting grade 4

These groups will form:

- Tutor groups
- For Year 7 to 9 only, foundation subject classes (Geography, History, RE, DT, Computing, French, Spanish, Music, Art and PE)

English, Maths and Science are set independently.

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Rankings move **twice a year**, ensuring students can always improve and move up through effort and perseverance.

Attitude to Learning (ATL) Rankings

Updated **every half term**, based on:

- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Achievement points
- Behaviour points

Top 30 students in the year group (**Pioneer A2L**) will go on a **reward trip**, this will include most improved students. The bottom 30 students will go on a professionalism intervention.

This system reinforces our values and strengthens the culture of ambition and professionalism across the academy.

Respect and Professionalism: Introduction of “Madam”

From September, all female staff will be addressed as **“Madam”**, in the same way male staff are addressed as “Sir”.

This change:

- Ensures clarity and consistency
- Reinforces respect and equality
- Strengthens our culture of professionalism

Tutors will support students in using the correct titles from day one.

Attendance

As we move into the new academic year, we begin with setting new attendance targets for all Year groups from 7 to 13. Our **attendance target will be 96% for all students**. Strong attendance is essential for academic success and is a core part of ATL rankings.

Parents/carers should:

- Ensure that your child attends the academy every day and support them in meeting their attendance target
- Ensure that your child arrives at school on time every day, not later than 8:38am. The school gates close promptly at 8:38am.
- Limit your child’s absences to cases of genuine illnesses
- Book holidays and events outside of term time. No students will be permitted to take a holiday during term time
- Make appointments for medical appointments outside of academy hours

If your child is genuinely ill and cannot attend school, please contact the academy by telephone on **020 8672 8582 by 8:15am** on the first day of absence, and every day thereafter until their return.

Punctuality

The importance of punctuality cannot be emphasised enough, as it significantly impacts on the smooth running of our school. In addition, we request your support in encouraging our students to arrive at school

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promptly, as this will enable them to benefit from a full day of learning and maximise opportunities for them to reach their full potential.

All students must arrive by **8:38am** to ensure they are at line up or tutor rooms (sixth form) by 8:40am. All academy gates close at 8:38am. Students arriving after the gates close will be marked as late to school and will be issued a break detention. Any student arriving **after 9:00am** will receive a **same-day twilight detention** and students arriving after break will go to the reflection room. Punctuality is a key indicator of professionalism and readiness to learn.

Personal Development: Education with Character Charter

This year, we are renewing our focus on **Education with Character** by continuing our work on improving our provision so that it is in line with the [UL EWC Charter](#). Here, we will ensure every student can develop:

- Leadership
- Resilience
- Cultural awareness
- Community engagement
- Personal responsibility

This will be delivered through tutor time, assemblies, enrichment and curriculum experiences.

We are expanding our enrichment offer this year, including the introduction of **LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art)** qualifications.

LAMDA will support:

- Public speaking
- Confidence
- Communication skills
- Performance
- Leadership

This aligns directly with our values of **Ambition** and **Perseverance** and strengthens students' personal development and future pathways. If you would like your child to participate in this enrichment, please contact Ms Lewis at mail@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk

Careers Education (Unifrog)

All students will continue using **Unifrog** during tutor time to support:

- Careers exploration
- Pathway planning
- Work experience
- Post-16 and post-18 guidance

This ensures every student is prepared for future success. Other ways our students engage with an ambitious careers programme is through Into University workshops, university visits, guest speakers in various fields, apprenticeship fair and college visits.

Uniform Expectations

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 adhere to the prescribed uniform policy which we have

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outlined below. We kindly request your assistance in ensuring that students are properly attired in their designated uniform, presenting a professional appearance at all times. Please note, if students arrive with incorrect uniform, they will not be able to attend lessons until it has been corrected.

Students must return in full, correct uniform:

- EBA grey blazer (Yr7+8), EBA black blazer (Yr9-11)
- EBA Tie in year group colour
- White shirt with collar
- Navy school trousers (Yr7+8), black trousers (Yr9-11)
- Black leather school shoes (no trainers)

PE kit expectations

From September, students will wear their PE kit on days they have PE to school. This means, students will not be required to wear their school uniform on days they have PE. This change will:

- Maximise the amount of time students spend in PE lessons
- Reduce lost time changing
- Support a smoother, more efficient timetable
- Encourages physical activity and readiness

Students must wear the full, correct EBA PE kit on these days:

- EBA tracksuit bottom/shorts
- EBA technical T-shirt or sports top or EBA black and white rugby top
- Football socks
- Trainers/Boots depending on activity
- Swimming trunks, towel & goggles when swimming is timetabled

Please note, if students arrive with incorrect PE kits or wear their PE kit on a day they do not have PE, they will not be able to attend lessons until it has been corrected.

Jewellery

Students are permitted to wear the following items:

- A maximum of 1 small stud gold/silver earring on each ear lobe
- Religious bracelets
- Wristwatch

No other jewellery is permitted.

The following items are NOT allowed:

- Smart watches
- Mobile phones
- Rings, necklaces or bracelets
- Nose studs or rings
- Earrings containing genuine or imitation precious stones

Mobile Phone Ban & Online Safety

Recent government guidance and research findings encourages schools to restrict mobile phone use. It is therefore important to clarify our position on mobile phones.

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- We do not expect mobile phones to be brought into the academy for Year 7-11 students
- Hear it, see it, we take it. Mobile phones will be confiscated and taken to a secure storage location for **3 weeks** in the first instance. If it happens again within the same year, the phone will be confiscated for **6 weeks**.
- The academy will not investigate issues related to mobile phones that have taken place on the academy premises e.g., loss or theft.
- We encourage parents/carers to undertake regular checks to ensure their child using their phone safely and appropriately

Ernest Bevin Academy is not liable for the replacement of any items. If a child brings a valuable item to school, it is their responsibility to ensure it is kept safe.

At EBA, we are working to ensure that students are taught how to use the internet and social media responsibly and are informed about the risk factors relating to online activity. Key areas of concern include:

- The impact of social media on mental health
- Distraction from learning
- Online bullying
- Exposure to harmful content
- Reduced focus and concentration

We are committed to creating a safe, focused learning environment free from unnecessary digital distractions. 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 through Arbor. This system removed the need for students to bring cash into school, making school purchases completely cashless. When students are enrolled, parents are emailed their login details, and a step-by-step guide on how to register with Arbor.

It is important that parents/carers check their child's balance regularly to support your child budget effectively, and to ensure that accounts are kept in credit.

A reminder that packed lunches must follow healthy eating expectations. They 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 or falafel
- Water or flavoured water

Items **not** permitted:

- Nuts, sesame seeds & poppy seeds – including peanut butter, Nutella and cereal bars containing nuts as we have several students who have severe allergies. We are ‘**nut free**’ academy.
- Any drinks other than water/flavoured water. **Please note we do not allow fizzy drinks or energy drinks. These will be confiscated and disposed of.**
- Confectionaries such as sweets, chocolate bars, and biscuits. 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 fruit.
- Confectionery multipacks
- Large bags of crisps

Healthy habits support learning and wellbeing.

Medical Needs

If your child does need to take medication in school, please ensure that you alert our new **Student Services Administrator, Ms Ngombo**. If your child has a long-term medical need, or new diagnosis please ensure that Ms Ngombo is made aware. 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:

- The medication in date
- The medication is in its original container/box/bottle, as dispensed by the pharmacist or sold over the counter. **The exception to this Insulin, which must still be in date, although unlikely to be in its original container, but contained within an insulin pen or pump.**
- The medication is labelled with the child’s name
- The medication includes instructions for administration, dosage and storage
- The parents have completed a consent form

Staff at EBA will not be able to administer complimentary medicines due to the combination of active ingredients.

Heads of Year

We are pleased to confirm the Heads of Year for 2026–27:

- **Year 7** – Mr Harding
- **Year 8** – Mr Choudhury
- **Year 9** – Mr Mombrikotb (Head of PE)
- **Year 10 & 11** – Mr Scrimshaw
- **Year 12 & 13** – Ms Warren (Assistant Principal, Sixth Form)

These leaders will oversee pastoral care, academic progress and behaviour standards.

Use of Planners

All students will receive a new **EBA Planner**. It will be a part of Year 7-13 daily equipment and will be used for:

- Recording homework
- Organisation
- Reading logs

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- ATL reflections
- Communication between home and school

Planners support ambition and personal responsibility.

Reading Strategy: DEAR Time

This year, we will be strengthening our reading strategy through **DEAR Time (Drop Everything And Read)** during tutor time.

Daily reading will be embedded through:

- Tutor-led reading
- Structured reading routines in academic subjects
- **Read for pleasure at home** – this is vital for the success of this strategy

Reading is central to academic excellence.

Praise & Rewards Culture

We are expanding our praise culture to celebrate ambition, perseverance and unity:

- **Half-termly Pioneer Trips:** This will be for the top 30 students on the A2L ranking. Most improved students will join this list also.
- **Half-termly 100% attendance events:** This will be for students that have maintained strong attendance of 100% throughout the half term.
- **End-of-year 100% attendance rewards trip:** This will be for students that have maintained strong attendance throughout the year.
- **Achievement points rewards:** Students with the highest achievement points per year group will receive rewards for modelling academy values.
- **Weekly Bevin Boy recognition:** The pastoral team select 1 student in KS3 and another student in KS4 to win the badge gift voucher for modelling the academy values of ambition, perseverance and unity to a high standard

We want every student to feel recognised for their effort and progress.

Daily Twilight Detentions

To reinforce our insistence in having high expectations, we will be expanding our twilight detentions from Fridays to everyday of the school week. These detentions are from 3:10pm to 5:00pm. Any one of the reasons below will result in a same day twilight detention. Parents will be informed in advance:

- Missed central detentions
- Arrival after 9:00am
- Serious ATL concerns

This ensures consequences are timely and consistent.

Parent Communication

We recognise from parent surveys that communication between the academy and parents must improve. The first step towards achieving this is being clear about how we communicate regularly as a school:

- [Weekly bulletins](#)
- [Parent letters](#)

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The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

- Email updates sent through Arbor
- The EBA website
- EBA staff phone calls or on-site meetings

As a rule, **you should hear back from the academy with 48 hours of contacting us**. Please ensure your contact details are up to date.

Closing Message

As we begin our 100-year celebrations, we move forward with clarity, ambition and unity. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure every student thrives, academically, personally and professionally.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ademolake
Principal
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