

Frequently asked questions

What work will be carried out on the Eastgate site to make the environment suitable for students?

Yes, we have the DfE team, the college site team and their contractors plus our own premises manager and Trust site teams working on it. We are prioritising the work that is needed for the September start and I have issued them with a list of priorities and the standard to which I want them. This is to ensure children are safe and have an excellent learning environment. I am assured this will all be ready in time and we have weekly meetings with the DfE team to hold them to this. My premises manager is an experienced project manager and he will co-ordinate all the work too.

Will Eastgate be fully up and running by September?

It will be fully redecorated, including painted, new signage, new carpets, new windows and lighting, dedicated science and art/design classrooms and space to hold half year group assemblies. The kitchen and cafeteria area will also be made suitable and improved to cater for 360 pupils. All the outside areas will be landscaped, cleaned up and have new signage. There will also be secure fencing in place.

Could you also clarify whether the students will have access to some secure outdoor space as this is very limited at the site and also clarify how the frontage will be securely segregated from other people passing and in and around town?

The children will have the entire rear of the building as their outdoor space. This will be made secure and I will also be requesting table tennis table and basketball nets where they can play. The front of the building will have a secure line of fencing that will segregate it from the main pavement ensuring that no-one can access the front of the building. The main entrance will be secured and on a buzzer with CCTV and all the relevant security measures in place. We will also have staff on duty outside the site in the morning and after school to supervise the children.

I would like to ask for some clarity on how the children will get safely to and from the new town location?

If you have asked to access the bus discussed at the information evening, then this is one way. It will pick up children at the Keresforth site in the morning and take them to Eastgate, dropping them directly outside. It will then do the same after school for the return journey. We are just waiting for confirmation from the DfE regarding the funding for this. This will continue for as long as parents request it until we move to the permanent site. We will also have staff on duty from 8am in the morning outside the building and towards the bus station, we will do the same after school too.

In addition, will you have safety measures will be in place to ensure that the children do not mix with Barnsley College Students/Staff or even the general public? Or will they be mixing but under supervision? Or be mixing with no supervision?

There will never be any Barnsley College pupils near our site, or in it. They may walk down Eastgate but college times are not the same as the school, their arrival and departure times are fluid. Rest assured, as stated above, we will have staff supervising outside the building and the surrounding areas every morning and after school. Our site is secure and will only be accessed by our children and our staff. No Barnsley college pupils or staff will access the building. They will not be in a position to mix without supervision.

We will also have staff on duty before and after school outside the site and also towards the bus station.

Will there be transition days?

Unfortunately, whether we would have been at Keresforth or at Eastgate we would not have been able to do any transition visits this year. With no building ready in time and children coming from 24 different primary schools we just can't accommodate it. Also, when enquiring with other venues they will not allow children from different schools on the same day.

We will ensure that the first day and the immediate week after will be enjoyable and smooth, children who have SEND or who are anxious will be supported in form time and in lessons. We will also be doing tours of the building, showing them how to buy food and where everything is.