

15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 – September Arrangements for Returning to our Schools

I hope that you are managing to keep well, and that you are able to get out more to see family and friends. We know that many people have had/continue to have a difficult time as a result of COVID-19. Please know that all our families are in our prayers.

Welcome to our new families, whose children/young people are joining Year 7, Year 12, Reception and Nursery. Welcome to our growing trust of schools who work together to make the best possible provision for all our young people, which in a couple of years will include another new secondary school in Oldham. I hope that parents of our new students enjoyed the online induction and found it helpful. Please be assured that we will have everything in place to support new students, help them to settle in, and quickly pick up learning.

This letter is about the arrangements for the new school year which starts in September and will be followed up by more detailed information from the Headteacher of your child's school. The letters reflect what we are putting in place, but please bear in mind that external circumstances may change. **I will contact you again, early in week beginning 24th August, to confirm the arrangements – please check your emails.**

Getting Everyone Back

We are looking forward very much to welcoming **all** our young people. As you will appreciate, and expect, this must be managed carefully. COVID-19 will be here for some time to come.

The Important Things

Pupils will have their full curriculum. Teachers are working hard, planning for how they will deal with pupils' learning needs following lockdown, particularly to ensure knowledge and understanding are where they need to be, whilst ensuring that your sons and daughters enjoy and make progress in the new school year of learning. Our young people will be back with friends, teachers and support staff, and all the encouraging routine of school. You will know that they are safe and looked after, and that they will soon be back on track; and we hope that means a relief for you, and the ability to get on with your work.

Safety Arrangements/How Pupils will be Grouped

We will be maintaining "bubbles" to limit contact between pupils. Primary children will be in class bubbles with their class teacher; secondary pupils will be in year bubbles taught by subject specialists.

In secondary, each year group will have a separate building, toilets and play/social area. It will be staff who will move rather than pupils.

We will be handwashing and sanitising in our schools throughout the day and there will be additional cleaning. We will be keeping a very close eye on respiratory hygiene so that pupils automatically "catch it, bin it, kill it". Public Health England advises that pupils (and staff) should **not** wear masks in school. Unlike in shops, staff and pupils are mixing in consistent groups. Disposing of what could be rather soggy masks during the school day is an additional potential hazard. However, face coverings **are** required on public transport for adults and young people over the age of 11. We will be monitoring this guidance over the holiday and will be able to update you when I write again on 24th August.

Pupils should be in **full school uniform, including school shoes**. The advice is that uniform is kept clean, as normal. It isn't necessary to use any special products.

Secondary pupils must remember their equipment, pens, pencils, rulers etc. They cannot borrow from others.

Lunchtime and Break: Secondary – it will not be possible to get all the pupils through the canteen for meals, because everything must be thoroughly cleaned down after each “bubble” of a class or year group. Therefore, your child will need to bring in a packed lunch or they can buy one at school as a “grab bag”. Young people who are entitled to free school meals will also get a grab-bag until we are able to get the school meal system running more normally.

Lunchtime: Primary

Children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school meal which our kitchen teams will provide. Because of the difficulties of cleaning between each “bubble” of children this will be a packed lunch until further notice. Other children in Years 3-6 who are entitled to a free school meal will also receive a packed lunch. Parents may prefer to give children a packed lunch from home.

Arrivals and Departures

If your child hasn't been into school since March, you will find that we now have to be very careful about dropping off. Primary children will have staggered starts and finishes. Parents cannot come on site without an appointment. When dropping off/collecting children, please **do not** collect at the barriers, and remember to maintain your distance from others. Headteachers and their staff will be looking after the children – please help them to focus on this and not be distracted by having to remind adults about social distancing!

Most secondary pupils use school buses or public transport where they will need to wear face masks (which they must remove when coming into school) and they must follow the rules set down by the bus companies about distancing. Government is asking Local Authorities to work with transport providers to try to increase the number of buses available. We will keep you up to date with further information as and when we receive it.

Working Together

Parents with children in Blue Coat, Mayfield and St George's already will have seen how hard staff have worked to maintain contact with children to continue their education. Your help and support have been essential. When all the pupils are back in school, staff will be very busy teaching, sorting out learning and knowledge needs, and helping young people who will need time and nurture. Our staff will be doing a lot of supervision duties around school, to maintain a safe environment for everyone. So please do your utmost to ensure your child is school-ready – that they have the correct uniform, that they don't cut or do something to their hair which is against the rules; that if salons re-open in August, that they don't have their ears pierced and then argue that studs cannot be removed! Please also emphasise the rules about mobile phones; for secondary pupils that these must be turned off during the day and kept in bags or lockers. In primary, pupils and parents must follow the school's policy. Issues like these absorb staff time, when we need it to be focused on pupils and learning.

Holiday Provision

I am attaching a letter from the Local Authority which sets out the provision that will be available during the school holidays.

Centre Assessment Grades (Blue Coat)

For public health reasons and to help keep pupils and families safe, Blue Coat will be issuing grades for A-levels and GCSEs electronically on 13th and 20th August respectively. Mr Higgins will contact

you with full details about the arrangements. The Trust Board has decided that pupils may have their centre assessed grades if they wish, but these will be issued separately, and pupils must complete a form to receive this data (details to follow). It is probably worth reminding everyone that every year there are surprises – some students get better results than they had hoped; some may go up in one subject but come down slightly in another. In exams, these things happen. The most important question is – has the student got the destination they wanted? In this exceptional year it is even more important that we focus on the big picture – can my son/daughter progress to the next stage; and if they can, then as a parent as well as a teacher my heartfelt advice would be to celebrate their achievements in this really difficult year, and look to the future.

Music Tuition

Again, this mainly applies to Blue Coat pupils, where instrumental and voice tuition is normally offered through an excellent peripatetic music service, for which parents pay. Many schools are sadly abandoning music tuition next year. We really do not want to do that. Once anyone stops playing, it is difficult to pick up where you left off, and it would be sad at the very least if so many promising young musicians were cut off through lack of opportunity. We are exploring the different ways in which that tuition could be offered, potentially online, and will get back to you as soon as we can. The message for now is; don't give up on this but bear with us as we try to reconstruct this brilliant provision in new circumstances.

Return Dates

Blue Coat and St George's will be closed to pupils until **Thursday, 3rd September**, for staff training in the new situation. Year groups will be then be phased in, with priority given to new pupils. Your Headteacher will confirm the exact details, but for Blue Coat, assume Years 8-11 and 13 will not return until **Monday, 7th September** and at St George's **not all** classes will return on 3rd September.

Mayfield will open to pupils as planned on **Monday, 7th September** and again, the classes will be phased in. We have extended Mayfield's summer break this year to enable the building contractors to complete the disruptive work in the existing building before pupils return.

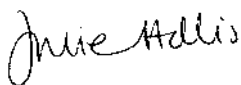
Something to enjoy

Every year, on the third Wednesday of July, Blue Coat celebrates its foundation in 1834 by Thomas Henshaw. Since we created our Trust, the Headteachers of Mayfield and St George's and their Head Girl and Boy have joined us too. Sadly, we cannot hold this in person in 2020, but there will be a virtual Founder's Day, online https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qWFtXmj_VA; enough to remind those of us who have been lucky enough to attend in the past, and to give new pupils and parents a flavour of what they too will enjoy. Right now, it is a wonderful way to join our community together in our hopes for our children and our prayers for the future.

Have a safe and happy summer. We will be back in touch week beginning 24th August and ready to welcome our young people in September.

Stay safe and God bless.

Yours sincerely



JULIE HOLLIS
Chief Executive Officer
The Cranmer Education Trust

Holiday Activities and Childcare Categories

Summer 2020

Brief descriptions of Holiday Care and Holiday Activities to help to signpost parents

Categories	Brief description	Web link to find info
Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General childcare in an early years' setting or with a childminder • From ages birth 0 to 14 years (ish) • We suggest parents check the Ofsted childcare register for details https://www.gov.uk/get-childcare 	List of childcare providers
Family Information Service (FIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on childcare and services for families with children, aged 0-19 years old (0-25 years with SEND) 	FIS - Family Information Service
Holiday Care Holiday Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full or part time days • From aged 3 to 14 years (ish) • Run in the school holidays • Times can run from 7.30am to 6.00pm(ish) each one is different 	List of Summer Holiday Care
Holiday Schemes Holiday Activities Summer Offer Summer Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tend to run from aged 5 years upwards. • Usually sessions or full day • Run in the school holidays • Times vary but could be 9.00am to 12noon or 1.00pm to 3.00pm(ish) 	Holiday activities
Out of School Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after school times • In term time • Times usually between 7.30am(ish) to the school start and then at the end of school day to 6.00pm(ish) • School age pupils to 14 years (ish) 	List of childcare providers
SEND Local Offer Local Offer LO Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEND LO directory is updated regularly with a range of activities for children and young people aged 0 -25 years who have a special educational need or disability (SEND). • It also contains useful information for their parents and professionals. 	www.oldham.gov.uk/localoffer

NB: some organisation use some of these words in different ways to mean different things so please check with the parent exactly what they want and then sign post the parent to the webpages.