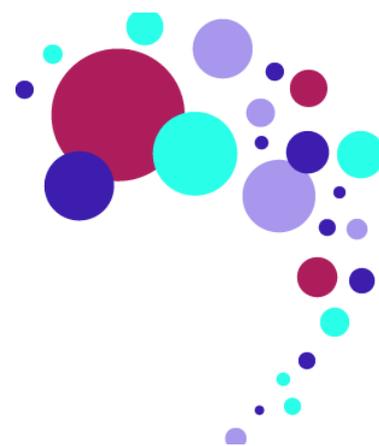

UPDATE FROM THE CRANMER EDUCATION TRUST ON BLUE COAT 2

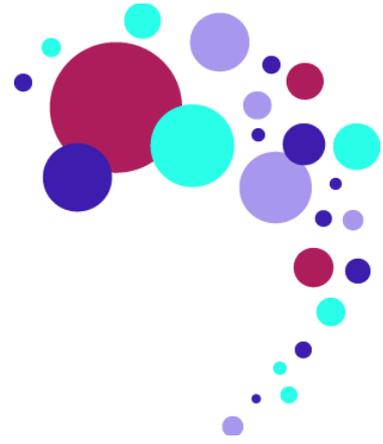
JANUARY 2020



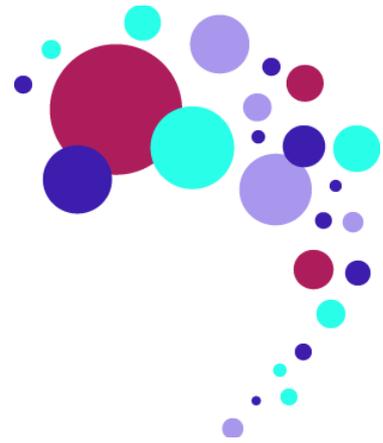
Cranmer Education Trust has been successful in its bid to the Department for Education for a secondary Free School for Oldham



Mark, Bishop of Middleton in the Diocese of Manchester and Chair of Diocesan Board of Education has spent a lot of time with us, talking to our local community through schools and parishes. He spent the day in several schools during the autumn term, talking to children and young people about his role looking after all the schools in the diocese.



The vision for the school has been developed with the support of the Diocese, the Council, the Interfaith Network and Community Leaders.



Cranmer Education Trust's Chair of Trustees, Janet Gregory, barrister-at-law, was invited to Downing Street when we got the news that the application had been successful. To her left is our Director of Operations, Christine Ellis. The strength of the bid depended on the steadfast support we have had from the Diocese, Oldham Council and Local Authority, the Interfaith Forum, and our MPs, particularly Jim McMahon, all of whom have made a commitment to this new school for Oldham.

Leader of Oldham Council, Sean Fielding visits Blue Coat 1, the model for the new school for Oldham and meets Headteacher, Rob Higgins. Listen to the podcast, by going to the Cranmer Education Trust website [here](#)



Many of you signed up for the new school updates at Blue Coat 1 Open Day. Thanks to Ridhiya and the team for answering questions and sharing information.



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

We attended a meeting with our DfE lead contact for our new school early this academic year. The people who are now progressing the business of securing a site for the school attended too.

Meanwhile, we are developing the education, governance, staffing and financial plans.

The DfE have allocated us with funding for the pre-opening phase to make sure we can deliver on all the key elements expected. We have commissioned an experienced project manager who has worked successfully with many free school groups to open on time. So far our status reports are all green!

When will the new school open?



Our aim is to open in 2022, subject to the Department For Education.

The Vision and Values for Blue Coat 2

VISION

Our new school will be a **Church of England school**, situated (like Blue Coat 1) in the town centre, that serves the whole of our compact borough. It will welcome children of all faiths, and none, and will be **multicultural, multifaith, and multi-talented** - a microcosm of the borough.

We will offer **240** places in each year, building up from Year 7, to build the community of the school. When pupils leave at 16, they will be able to progress to Sixth Form on the Blue Coat 1 site.

The school **crest and logo** is being designed and will be in the next newsletter. The motto for the school will be:

Lucaat Lux Vestra
Let your light shine (Matthew 5:16)

We are all drawn to the light, whatever our faith or background. We want our new school to reflect light and generate energy. Our staff will nurture the spark in each individual, to enable everyone to become everything they can be and are meant to be.



Why is the Motto in Latin?

Because that speaks of foundation, tradition and history. **Blue Coat 2** is a new secondary school which will continue and build upon the traditions of excellence established by Blue Coat 1 and the history of our Trust. It will also look to the future, to forge its own unique identity within the educational landscape of Oldham.

What will Blue Coat 2 be like?

Our new school will, like Blue Coat , be a traditional school, with an ambitious, broad, knowledge-based curriculum including English, Maths, Science, the Humanities (Religious Studies, History and Geography), Modern Languages, Computing, Technology, PE, Art, Music, Drama, Food and Nutrition, Citizenship, Duke of Edinburgh Award and personal, social and health and relationships education. There will be additional options for students when they begin GCSE, including some vocational courses, which can lead to apprenticeships and the new T-Levels.

Like Blue Coat 1, our new school will prioritise:

- Excellent teaching and deep learning;
- Extra-curricular provision that extends every young person, enabling him/her to learn something new, work with different people, and grow in confidence.
- Pastoral care and nurture of every child.

Our Commitment

- We will look after all our young people;
- We will have the highest expectations of all in their behaviour, their learning and their development as people we are proud to know;
- We will expect our students to care for and respect each other, their school and their community; to work hard and develop the spark that each has for the good of all; and aim always to be the best we can be and are meant to be.
- Our mantra will be:

"Do your best. Always have a go. Surprise yourself with what you can achieve. Put in, give back".

Next Steps

Our focus now is on all the necessary work to open a school:

- Ensuring that the **education plan** is full and complete, including all the detail about what will be taught, how, how it will be assessed, how progress will be reported to parents, how staff will be trained and developed, how children with Special Educational Needs will be supported, additional support for children whose home language is not English and/or those whose literacy needs further development so that they can access and enjoy an ambitious curriculum.
- How pupils will be kept safe and nurtured, how their horizons will be broadened and their skills and confidence developed through extra-curricular opportunities, how behaviour will be managed and how pupils can themselves contribute to the development and running of their school.
- Completing the Governance plan.
- Continuing to develop the admissions policy, and advice to parents about how to apply.
- Finalizing the brand and designing the website.
- There will be a proper launch later in the year when our new school will be officially named.



VALUES



The Cranmer Education Trust

Ambition

Excellence

Community

Our Mission

- To transform the life chances of children and young people through excellent education and outstanding schools.
- To build on the inspiration and legacy of Thomas Henshaw, who founded schools which have enabled young people in Oldham to build their future for nearly 2 centuries.
- To nurture our pupils to become good people – good friends, neighbours, citizens, parents, whom we are proud to know.

Our Vision

- All our young people will enjoy a rich, stimulating education that enables them to become everything they can be and are meant to be.
- All our staff will model behaviours for our young people of high expectations, kindness, personal responsibility and generosity of spirit.
- We have the highest expectations of all our children and young people on their educational journey; to achieve excellence, meet and exceed national expectations, and be able to progress confidently to further education, training, employment and life.
- Our Trust will balance the need for central systems for consistency, effectiveness and strategic planning with the need to foster and support responsibility, creativity and commitment at the individual school level.

Our Values and Ethos

- We believe in the unique worth and value of every individual. As a Christian foundation, we express this in our belief in every child as a child of God, equal, worthy of respect, entitled to nurture, opportunities and a future where they can and will do good as they go along.
- We serve children and young people of all faiths and denominations and none. We will nurture Christian children in their faith, support children of other faiths in theirs and seek to ensure that all children understand the significance of faith.
- We are committed to the development of all staff throughout their careers; and to growing inspiring, committed, highly skilled and reflective teachers.
- We work collaboratively. We commit, we share, we invest and we learn, to build a system that enables all children and young people, and those who serve them, to thrive.
- Our schools are communities that bring together young people from different social, cultural and faith backgrounds to build a cohesive, integrated, respectful community for all.



FAQS

We will do our best to share information with you about how the new school is progressing. There are some questions that will come out of the Section 10 consultation process. There are some the Department for Education puts limits on until the site has been secured.



WHERE WILL IT BE?

We and the Council are committed to opening our new school in the town centre so that it is accessible to young people from across the borough.



WHEN WILL IT GET A NAME?

When the site is confirmed, our new school will be officially launched in its own name and website. It already has its own motto:

**Luceat Lux Vestra
Let your light shine**



WHEN WILL IT OPEN?

We are committed to opening in 2022, but that is dependent upon the Department for Education.



HOW CAN WE SECURE A PLACE FOR OUR SON/DAUGHTER?

Keep in touch. All the details of exactly how the admissions process will work will be published when we have our opening date.



DO I NEED TO GO TO CHURCH OR A PLACE OF WORSHIP?

Half of the places (120 in each year) will **not** be faith-based, but will be allocated fairly across geographical zones. Faith-based places for Christians (up to 60) will be linked to attendance at worship (beyond school assembly) over a period of time. All church denominations that are in Churches Together and the Evangelical Alliance will be treated equally. The 60 "other faith" places will be linked to membership of faiths that are part of the Oldham Interfaith Network. If the faith-based places are not taken up, they will added to the places available through geographical zones.





FAQS (continued)..



IF I DON'T GET IN BLUE COAT 1, AM I ELIGIBLE FOR A PLACE AT BLUE COAT 2 (OR VICE-VERSA)?

Blue Coat 2 will be a separate school, so it has to be a preference on your application. Oldham residents can express 6 preferences, so you would need to include it in these - preferably in the first 3!

If you want to apply to both Blue Coat 1 and our new school, they would both need to be in your list of preferences. You will be allocated your highest preference of those schools where you meet the admissions criteria.

So if, for example, you are not a church-goer or of any faith, you can apply to Blue Coat 1, but your chances of getting a place are lower, because the school is very over-subscribed by families who are worshippers and active members of faith communities. However, half the places at our new school are not linked to faith, so you would have as good a chance as anyone else in your geographical zone. The zones reach across the town, so someone in, e.g. South Chadderton or St James's has as much chance as someone living next door to the school.



WILL PUPILS WEAR A UNIFORM?

Yes. We want our pupils to look smart and wear their uniform with pride. There will be a blazer, a tie, a skirt/trousers option, a plain white shirt, black shoes (not trainers or boots). No jewellery will be allowed except for a wrist watch. Hair must be of a conventional cut and of a natural colour. Long hair must be tied back. A hijab (if worn) must be the same dark colour as the blazer (to be confirmed).

The actual colours are being worked on currently as part of the branding for the school.

PE kit will be kept simple, in black with the school logo, as at Blue Coat 1. Track suit bottoms are optional.



MY CHILD HAS SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS - WHAT PROVISION WILL BE MADE?

Children who have an Education and Health Care Plan which names our new school will automatically get a place.

Blue Coat 2 will mirror the policy and provision of Blue Coat 1 which is grounded on our commitment to Achievement for All. Full details of the policy will be included in the Education Brief which will follow in the summer/autumn of 2020, but the approach can be accessed via the Cranmer Education Trust's website [here](#)



FAQS (continued)..



WHAT ARE THE TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY?

We will confirm this as the detailed planning is finalised, but it will be a slightly longer school day than many other schools, twice a week, as we want all our pupils to benefit from extra-curricular provision.



WILL THE TERMS AND HOLIDAYS BE THE SAME AS OTHER SCHOOLS?

Yes. The Cranmer Education Trust schools all adopt their Local Authority terms and holidays to support family arrangements. Pupils attend for the full 190 days per year. There are local adjustments - we extend the autumn half term by a day for pupils so that we can build in training time for teachers. Similarly, the start date of the autumn term and the finish date of the summer term might vary by a day from the local pattern.

All our schools publish a calendar a year in advance so that parents can plan. Absence during term time for family holidays is not authorised.



WHAT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WILL THE SCHOOL PROVIDE?

This will grow as the school population increases, but essentially it will include:

- A range of sporting, musical, dramatic and artistic opportunities.
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award will be part of the curriculum - Silver will be extra-curricular.
- Chess, debating, computing, creative writing, film & media.
- Cookery, textiles and engineering, over and above the curriculum.
- Subject-related clubs, e.g. Young Scientists, Young Mathematicians, Philosophy.
- Ideas that pupils come up with, e.g. the Blue Coat bake-off came entirely from the pupils, but is also much enjoyed by staff!



WILL THE SCHOOL PROVIDE HALAL FOOD?

Yes. As at Blue Coat 1, there will be both Halal and non-Halal food, plus vegetarian and vegan options.



FAQS (continued)..



WHAT WILL THE BEHAVIOUR POLICY BE? HOW WILL THE SCHOOL DEAL WITH BULLYING?

Full details of the Behaviour Policy will be published with the Education Plan in the summer/autumn, but the principles are clear.

- Everyone is equal. We are kind and respectful to one another. No forms of bullying are tolerated.
- Relationships are at the heart of great education. Staff invest in their pupils and we expect pupils to listen to and respect the staff.
- All pupils must be able to learn and teachers must be able to teach. Behaviour which disrupts lessons is not allowed.
- We are proud of our school and our community and we work together to make them the best that they can be.



WILL PUPILS BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A MOBILE PHONE?

Yes, but they will not be allowed to use it during the school day, because we want pupils to be able to focus on learning and talking to each other to build our school community. If pupils use phones in lessons, or social time, or if they go off, they will be confiscated by a member of staff, and parents will have to come into school after the end of the school day to get the phone back. If this happens again, the phone will be confiscated for longer. It is better to be clear about this from the outset.



WHERE WILL PUPILS GO AFTER THEY HAVE FINISHED THEIR GCSEs?

Blue Coat 2 will make a big investment in careers and progression. This starts in Year 7 and is built into the curriculum. The routes for young people beyond 16 are developing all the time. We want all our students to be able to build their future, be independent and make a positive contribution. For some this might mean Level 3 qualifications (A Levels/the new T Levels) and then Higher Education. For others, it may be an apprenticeship route with degree-level training beyond that. Some young people know what they want to do, but most don't, so the key is not to close down any options early doors, but keep learning about what is available and developing the skills for employability - or setting up on your own - that are at least as important as your GCSEs, i.e. working with others, taking responsibility, being ready to contribute and lead, communicating clearly with people of all ages/backgrounds, being IT literate, organised, punctual, respectful but able to stand up for yourself and what is right. Pupils learn this across the curriculum and the extra-curricular offer, as much as through specific careers education.

We will build close relationships with local and regional employers/firms and involve them in the students' learning. At 16, pupils will be able to progress to any of the local area providers, including the Sixth Form at Blue Coat 1.



BLUE COAT 2

How can I find out more?

Currently, we are posting half-termly updates on the Cranmer Education Trust website. By the Summer of 2020, our new school will have its own website. Updates will also be issued via our social media.

Follow Cranmer Education Trust on Social Media



@CranmerEDT

@CranmerTrust

cranmereducationtrust

www.cranmereducationtrust.com

#BlueCoat2



CAN YOU HELP US PLEASE?

In September of 2019, Bishop Mark met clergy and local headteachers to express publicly the Diocesan commitment to our new school. He spoke with passion about the school as a blessing, a new member of the CofE family, which we can and should embrace, both for the children in our schools and parishes and those many young people beyond whose lives can be enriched.

He invited us all to put our faith as into this social action, bringing educational opportunity and the nurture of the whole child to all.

He then visited a number of primary schools - as he does - to celebrate the work of the Church of England in front-line education. His visit delighted the children and the staff. We are now building on those relationships, which we will extend to more schools, and particularly our church schools.

Bishop Mark asked the people he met to pray for us, and this is what we ask as well. This is what gives us hope, faith and strength.

Please pray for us, whatever faith or denomination you are, as our community, whether you have children who will come to our schools or not. Pray for the intention - a school that brings communities together in excellent education and care; a faith community that makes a valuable contribution to our town, sitting in the heart of Oldham, serving many and reaching out to all; and a school that sends young people into the world to do good, build bridges, and make the future better for us all. When we hit the obstacles - which we will - your prayers will give us the strength we need. They will make all the difference.

Yours sincerely

Julie Hollis
CEO The Cranmer Education Trust

