

15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 – Latest Update for all Trust Schools

I hope you and your families are managing to keep well. We know that some of our families have had a difficult and often sad time as a result of COVID-19 and the fallout. You are in our thoughts and prayers always. Please let your school know if your family has been affected, and we will do everything we can to support your child through our pastoral care.

School “re-opening” in June

As you know, our schools have never closed. Our schools have been open throughout and we have made provision available during the holidays for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Online teaching has been provided for all other pupils with paper resources, where essential. Regular contact has been maintained, particularly for our primary pupils.

What Government is introducing is a phased return to attendance at school, so long as the 5 tests apply, and schools can manage this safely. The guidance is that schools start to introduce more pupils **after** June 1st.

Our Principles

Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and the staff who serve them and through them, you, as our community. Being in school is fundamental to the welfare of young people, and we are longing to get them back, but we have to do this in a planned, measured and safe way. It will be different in each school because they each have different capacity, physically, and in staffing.

Our plan and intention is that by building up our pupils’ return to school environment slowly and carefully, in a deliberate and measured way, we move into a “new normal” which looks after and educates your children and ensures that we have the capacity and resilience to manage any set-backs. This is not just “flicking a switch”.

Learning Loss

Parents and teachers have done an amazing job. Thank you for all your feedback! It might be different to what pupils “normally” experience, but it isn’t “worse” – it is different – and it is fostering, especially with our older pupils, a greater independence.

We can and will make up for any learning loss in our schools, especially for our key groups in Years 5, 10 and 12 in a planned and measured way.

The plan

We are working on this now, continuously, building on scientific advice. It includes

- How many pupils we can safely fit in;
- How we manage movement;
- How we ensure hygiene and cleanliness, throughout;
- How we manage arrivals and departures, so that our children enter and leave safely;
- How our staff are protected, especially working with very young children who need touch;
- How we manage risk that might arise

This situation, and the advice, is moving all the time. I will get back to you, with an update on the likely dates for a phased reopening for the year groups affected, in a week.

Half Term

Spring half term begins on Monday, 25th May 2020. **All our schools will be closed on Monday, 25th May (bank holiday).**

Headteachers will contact parents of vulnerable children and children of key workers about their needs from Tuesday-Friday. It may be that we will just open one site (with staff from all three schools supporting) to concentrate on cleaning.

We are not alone

Please find below a link to this week's online assembly led by our Chaplain, Mr Ford. Please put this on, if you can, for your children. You might like to watch it yourself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zea5ZHDqtE4>

As a Christian Trust, we believe that our lives are not random. We are here for a purpose and that God is with us, all of the way, and especially at the toughest times. It is hard to express, but it is there – that absolute, unflinching assurance.

Stay safe and God Bless.

Yours sincerely



JULIE HOLLIS
Chief Executive Officer
The Cranmer Education Trust