

25th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 – Arrangements for the summer holidays and September

I hope that you and your families are well and safe. Our thoughts are with those families who have suffered illness, hardship or bereavement in these difficult times. If you have children in the year groups which have returned to school – albeit for a limited time – could you congratulate and thank them, on our behalf, for the very responsible way they have risen to the challenge and respected all the arrangements our schools have put in place to guard against any transmission of COVID-19. The young people have clearly been happy to be back, to see their friends and teachers and get some normality. Staff have been possibly even more delighted to be back in the buildings and working directly with pupils and students!

Summer Holidays

Having kept our schools open from the start of lockdown and through the Easter and Whitsuntide holidays, we have decided, with the agreement of our Trust Board, to close for the summer to **all** pupils. The reasons for this are as follows:

- We all need a break – teachers, wider school staff, pupils and parents. The last few months have been stressful for everyone. We all need time to focus on family and friends and the gradual relaxation of distancing should allow more of that to happen.
- Government has announced the intention that all age groups will return to school in September. Quite what that will look like is not yet clear (and could change again) but whatever the arrangements are schools will need to prepare for them and time is needed for this.
- In addition to the practical arrangements for return, the **educational** and **pastoral** provision for young people for the next academic year is our priority. **Our schools are on with this**, with our primaries working together, to ensure that learning loss is precisely identified, and pupils are helped to get back on track – and that we can adapt if there is another period of lockdown. This takes time and focus.
- Government has promised funding to support catch-up. As yet there is no advice about how that will be distributed, and it will not be available until the new academic year (i.e. September at the earliest)
- Our schools need to close during the summer to catch up on essential repairs, maintenance, site health and safety works and capital programmes. Mayfield will be completely out of commission for children until September as the contractors take over the site.
- We have been in contact with the Local Authority and are assured that some provision will be made available over the summer to help support young people's needs and wellbeing. We will pass on the information to parents as it becomes available.

Induction for new pupils/students in Years 7, 12 and Reception

Blue Coat is developing an online induction for Years 7 and 12 which young people and parents will be able to access during June-July. It is unlikely, under the current regulations, that we will be able to provide a physical induction day before the end of term. Therefore, if schools do open more widely in September, we will prioritise Years 7 and 12 in the first week.

For our primaries, entry into Reception (and Nursery) will be phased in line with children's ages. Headteachers will contact parents when we have more detail about the September arrangements.

Examination results: Blue Coat

Details on the arrangements for exam grade collection will be sent out shortly.

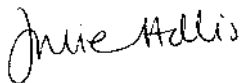
Start dates in September

We will confirm these **in August**, depending on the national and local situations.

I hope this helps you to plan for the summer holiday weeks.

Stay safe and God Bless.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Hollis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

JULIE HOLLIS
Chief Executive Officer
The Cranmer Education Trust