



31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have managed to get a break and some happy family time over Christmas, and that you are all well. I'm writing to update you on arrangements for the start of the spring term. Your headteacher will follow up with school-specific details as necessary, particularly for Blue Coat where recent government announcements have meant some changes to what we had planned before Christmas.

St George's and Mayfield

Primary schools in our region will return in full on 4th January 2021.

Blue Coat

Our arrangements have been moved on a week following the government's announcements on Wednesday. **Years 11 and 13 will now return on 11th January 2021 and all other pupils are currently expected to return to face-to-face teaching week commencing 18th January 2021.**

From 5th January 2021, **teaching will be online** for all students. Vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers will be in school and will have the same provision as those working from home - i.e. online lessons with a computer and adult supervision, in a warm environment. All the work that was put into developing online teaching throughout last term should now come into its own. Where pupils do not have access to a device or the internet, we will try to accommodate them in school. Mr Higgins will be contacting parents as arranged.

Please help us, and bear with us as we put this programme into action. The aim is to ensure that all young people have direct teaching in real time, to maintain learning and communication, and the structure of the school day.

Testing for COVID

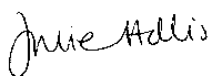
Prior to Christmas, Blue Coat had arranged with Public Health England, to pilot serial testing administered by a public health testing team for exam years 11 and 13 in the first week back. This may still happen – Mr Higgins will have more details when he contacts parents next week. The benefit would be that public and mock exams would not be upset by students potentially having to isolate as contacts. Mocks for Year 11 will now commence on 11th January, and public exams for some A-Level students and for vocational courses are nationally scheduled for the end of week beginning 4th January 2021. With the spread of the virus now across the country and the widespread disruption to schools, it is even more important that we do everything we can to ensure our young people have strong and objective baseline data about their learning.

What about the national roll-out of mass testing?

As soon as we have more clarity on this programme, we will communicate with parents as our priority. For the moment our focus is on the education and care of all our young people and keeping the business of our schools going with all hands-on-deck, as we have been doing for the past months.

Enjoy the rest of the holiday, and Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,



JULIE HOLLIS

Chief Executive Officer – The Cranmer Education Trust