

28th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the summer term. I hope everyone managed to get a rest and some family time over Easter. Though we remain very careful, we are all feeling much more positive – pupils are glad to be in, staff are so happy to be working with them, the sun is shining, and the vaccination programme is progressing well, with local infection rates currently low and stable.

In this letter, I want to share some reminders, some good news and some planning for the future, which I hope you will find helpful.

### COVID

Thank you for your support in ensuring secondary pupils take twice weekly lateral flow tests to prevent pupils inadvertently spreading the virus in school.

COVID controls in our schools will continue to include mandatory face coverings for secondary school pupils and staff, as required, at least until 17<sup>th</sup> May when national guidance is due to be reviewed.

We will continue to work in “bubbles” in all our schools.

### Good News

**Congratulations to St Anne's!** The Ofsted inspection of remote learning during lockdown is now published and available in full on the website. It makes excellent reading and shows the great progress the school is making, and how all the work last summer in installing a new ICT infrastructure by CET as part of the school entering the Trust enabled teachers to provide live teaching for pupils at home.

Inspectors concluded that “leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances”. The report praises school leadership for “a clear purpose and high expectations. You believe that your pupils can and should succeed....Leaders and governors have effectively adapted the school's approaches to teaching the curriculum so that pupils could continue their learning during the pandemic...Teachers make sure that pupils follow the planned curriculum as closely as possible, whether they learn at home or in school....Pupils' knowledge continues to grow”.

Finally, the report praised the work of the new governance of the school, and the strong link between the school and the CET.

**The formal celebration of St Anne's joining the Cranmer Education Trust** took place after Easter. Bishop Mark presided, all pupils received their new CET tie and staff their new lanyards. Pupils in Blue Coat, St George's and Mayfield made a lovely video to welcome St Anne's. The link to the video is here: [Welcome to St Anne's](#). We hope this will make you smile.

Photographs of the celebration will be available on our Trust website over the next few days.

**Congratulations to Mayfield!** Following a hectic and ultra-demanding year of managing a major building programme through a pandemic, Mayfield moved into its fabulous new extension during the Easter break, and Years 5 and 6 returned to their beautiful new classrooms on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Every part of the school has benefitted – all the children have improved facilities, including the new dining area, play areas, toilets, the new hall extension and all the new furniture and IT.

**Congratulations to Blue Coat!** The school has been appointed by the DfE to be the East Manchester Teaching Hub, which will be one of the only 87 hubs across England and will serve particularly Oldham and Tameside providing high quality, professional development for teachers. The approach we are adopting, as with Nexus, is a stakeholder model where we work closely with partners across our Trust and our area to share delivery and build capacity across our family of schools and our partners.

**The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy** – the site for our new secondary school has now been confirmed and the contractors, Willmott Dixon (who built the leisure centre nearby) have been appointed. We are absolutely delighted with the design and the facilities this will provide for young people. You can see full details on the website [Our Building - The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy \(brian-clarke.org\)](http://Our Building - The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy (brian-clarke.org)) and the submission for [planning permission](#).

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Section 10 consultation. The support we received was wonderful and **much appreciated**. Our project manager who has worked with **many** free school developments has never seen such a high level of response. The consultation is now closed; we will be reporting to the Department for Education and all representations/questions will receive a response in due course.

### Social Media Presence

We are really building this up now and our presence is increasingly positive. It helps us get messages and information out to our families, our staff, our family of schools and to share with the wider world of education, provision for young people and staff development.

Please take time to follow Cranmer and the schools and arms of our Trust on social media. Start with @CranmerEDT on Twitter and let's see if we can get #CranmerCommunity trending!

### Other Important Information

**Applying to secondary schools for September 2022/church attendance** - this applies to Blue Coat and will apply to The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy, where if Christian faith places are oversubscribed, we use evidence of church attendance. In the context of COVID and the difficulties faced by churches in making attendance at public worship freely open to all, **we will not be counting attendance at church for the academic year 2020-21 up to Whitsuntide, i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021**, at which point we will review the position in the light of any guidance from the Diocese which is our legal authority for such matters.

### Years 11 and 13 – Teacher Assessed Grades

Both Blue Coat and St Anne's have developed their policies for determining Teacher Assessed Grades for pupils in Years 11 and 13. These policies will be subject to strategic quality assurance by the Trust Board and will then be submitted to the examination boards for approval. The schools are informing students of what will be assessed and when, all of it based on what they have been taught. Detailed procedures are in place to ensure that marking is fair, consistent and objective.

What schools are not allowed to do is to tell pupils their marks or grades, as all of the assessment information must be standardised and moderated, quality assured and benchmarked against examples of grade-specific work provided by the exam boards. So please – do not ask for this. We absolutely cannot give it and if anyone did it would be malpractice. The young people will receive their grades from the exam boards on 10th August (A levels) and 12<sup>th</sup> August (GCSE/BTec).

**The key message is that pupils should set out to do their best in all their assessments**, which have been designed by their teachers to reflect the topics that pupils have covered and give them the best possible chance.

### **Leaving Dates for Year 13 and 11**

**Year 13 pupils** at Blue Coat will leave on **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021** unless there is an assessment they have missed due to illness or self-isolation which they need to complete.

### **Leaving Dates – Year 11 at Blue Coat and St Anne's**

The statutory leaving date for pupils in Year 11 is **Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. Normally this follows the completion of public examinations. However, this year the vast majority of students will have finished their assessments by the end of May so that their teachers can complete all of the rigorous processes to ensure fair and consistent assessment.

### **Arrangements for Year 11 students from 7th June:**

In line with the DfE's recently updated guidance to schools, arrangements for Year 11 will be based on the progression needs of students. Year 11s must return to school in June in the following cases:

- (a) To complete their assessments under exam conditions;
- (b) To ensure they have a clear progression route, and a back-up plan. We will be focusing on careers advice and visits to providers for the students who need this. The Headteacher will decide which students are included.
- (c) Where students have an Educational Health and Care Plan which requires the specific educational provision the student must attend as arranged by the school.
- (d) If the student has a social worker, and school is deemed the most appropriate place, and/or further support is needed to ensure that core skills and learning are in place, students must attend. The school will decide how best to make that provision for the student.
- (e) Most of our young people do have a clear progression route. We are liaising with the post-16 providers to ensure that our young people have transition work to prepare for their new course. This can be done through remote learning, or, if the student needs the facilities in school, by attending and working there online.

When students are in school they must wear full uniform, arrive and leave at the times set by the school, and follow the school's code of conduct/behaviour expectations in full. They will be supported and supervised and have access to the facilities they need to study until the statutory leaving date of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

## Transition for Year 6 pupils into Year 7

The DfE is making funding available for secondary schools to run summer schools for Year 6 pupils who are transferring to Year 7. These will balance learning to catch up on Year 6 with opportunities to do other activities and build social and emotional confidence for transition to secondary school.

Our schools are reviewing how best they can provide for youngsters and address learning loss for our new Year 7s. We will update parents of Year 6 pupils who are transitioning to Blue Coat and St Anne's in May-June with more details.

The same will apply for our Year 6 pupils in St George's and Mayfield depending upon their secondary school.

## Planning for the end of the school Year

It is a long way off, but we are hoping and praying that by mid-July we will be able to have some kind of celebration to mark a good end to a challenging year. That could mean some adjustments to end of year arrangements. Again, we will let parents know as early as we can – probably after the half term in June.

Please also bear in mind that there is a lot of work put in place ready for September 2021. Pupils may still be in bubbles but, as far as possible, we want to get them back working in specialist rooms – secondary pupils particularly. There is a massive job ahead to get the schools back to something closer to “normal” which needs time and planning. Further details to follow – but it is positive and hopeful that we can be thinking about this now and looking forward to the time when our children's education can be its best.

Yours sincerely,



**JULIE HOLLIS**  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Cranmer Education Trust