

1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 – Update of all Trusts School

Warmest wishes to everyone from The Cranmer Education Trust. We hope you are keeping well and managing in these difficult times. We send all our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to all those families who have suffered bereavement or who are worried about a family member or friend who is ill.

Thank you for your feedback about remote and online learning. Please do keep sending it – it helps us improve and the positive comments are much appreciated by all our staff who are working very hard to get the provision and care right for all our young people. Thank you also for your feedback about what you are doing at home, especially with young children, to learn in all kinds of ways and develop children's imagination, curiosity and communication.

Bank Holiday, Friday 8th May 2020

We will be opening **Mayfield Primary** as our hub school. Opening hours are 8.00am-8.45am for breakfast club and then 8.45am-3.15pm for the school day. This will be for the children of essential workers and other children who are normally attending. Both Blue Coat and East Crompton St George's will be closed on that day but pupils from these schools can go to Mayfield and staff from your children's home school will be there for them.

Please confirm with Mr Higgins (Blue Coat) or Mrs Ross (St George's) by Wednesday, 6th May 2020 if you need this provision for your child. If we do not hear from you by this date, we will assume that a place is **not** required, and therefore we will not bring in staff unnecessarily.

School Re-Opening

You may have heard or read different stories about schools re-opening. At the present time, **no dates have been set**. The government has said that school re-opening will be phased over time. **As soon as there is clarity nationally, we will contact you** to explain how we will re-open, the rationale for this and the arrangements in place to ensure that everyone is safe. All our schools are different, so the arrangements will be very school-specific, and we are on with planning for it!

We are all longing to get back and start to restore some sort of normality for our young people in safe conditions.

Online Assemblies

Our Chaplain, Mr Ford, is now posting online assemblies once a week for young people across our Trust. The link is below – have a look and share it with your children.

<https://youtu.be/VFdzuBcEA4M>

<https://youtu.be/kWol9S50kJc>

These will be updated on the Trust website, on a weekly basis on a Thursday, as these are published. <http://cranmereducationtrust.com/news/>

Also on the Cranmer Education Trust Website (<http://cranmereducationtrust.com/news/>) you can find "An Ode to Distance Learning" written by a teacher at Blue Coat after her own child had a study meltdown. Distance learning isn't easy for anyone, and nor is distance living. I hope it will make you smile. We are **all** in this together. Thank you to Mrs English!

FSM and Other Support Available

Our trust is now providing free school meal vouchers to eligible families of £15 per week using the national government scheme. If your circumstances have changed during the lockdown you may have become eligible for free school meals. For example, if you are now in receipt of benefits such as Universal Credit. The full details about eligibility can be found at oldham.gov.uk If you want any support with this process, our school staff will try to help, please ring your school and leave a message or email them. Alternatively, class teachers and other support staff are regularly checking in on pupils and families, you can talk to them.

Oldham has foodbanks in South Chadderton, Shaw and Crompton and in the town centre. They run on a voucher basis. Agencies such as citizens advice, housing support, children's centres, health visitors, social services and some local charities can help you with getting foodbank vouchers. If you are unsure, Oldham foodbank will help put you in touch with the right agency for your circumstances if you call them on 0161 622 1061 or email info@oldham.foodbank.org.uk oldham.foodbank.org.uk

For sixth form students, where family circumstances have changed, you may have become eligible for discretionary bursary. The full details of the discretionary bursary are on the blue-coat.org website and if your family's income has reduced below £25,000 or you are now eligible for benefits, you may also now be eligible for this bursary. Please contact the school if you want more details. Tutors and support staff will also be making phone calls home, so circumstances may be discussed during these calls.

Yours sincerely



JULIE HOLLIS
Chief Executive Officer
The Cranmer Education Trust