

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Arrangements for start of next term, January 2021: Update

You will have heard yesterday that Government has announced a staggered roll out of Coronavirus testing for secondary schools and colleges in the first week of January 2021.

This means:

1. Blue Coat

Term begins on **Tuesday, 5th January 2021**.

In the first week the **only** groups who will actually be in school will be **Years 11 and 13**. School will also be open to children of key workers, where parents need this provision, and vulnerable pupils.

All other pupils will be provided with remote education, including both online teaching through Microsoft Teams, and supported teaching using Bloodle, as has been developed over the last term. The Government guidance anticipates that face to face teaching will resume for these pupils week beginning 11th January 2021. The offer for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils will be the same remote learning offer, supervised by school staff.

We will contact parents before the start of term with an update and include information for key workers who wish their child to attend school in the first week.

Parents of vulnerable children will be contacted direct.

2. St George's and Mayfield primaries

Early Years and primary pupils should all return as normal at the beginning of term. If there are any problems with this (e.g. if we have staff who are ill or self-isolating), we will contact you towards the end of the school holiday.

Testing of Secondary Pupils

We do not have full details or guidance on this as yet, but we understand that secondary schools and colleges will be able to establish testing for all pupils and the first tests will be offered to Years 11 and 13.

We will be working on this over Christmas with Public Health and the Local Authority and will contact you again on **Monday, 4th January 2021** with further details.

I am sorry I cannot be more specific at the moment. Things may change, but these are the principles and we are working on the details. Mr Higgins the Headteacher will write to Blue Coat parents with specific details for each year group on 4th January. In the meantime, have a Happy Christmas!

Yours sincerely,



JULIE HOLLIS
Chief Executive Officer
The Cranmer Education Trust