



The Blue Coat School

www.blue-coat.oldham.sch.uk

Proud to be part of the Cranmer Education Trust

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well, and that you are looking after and supporting each other through this very challenging period. Can I also thank you for support over the last two weeks, which have been incredibly difficult and testing for us all. Hopefully your son/daughter has been able to access the work that staff have been setting on BLOODLE, and I know from the numerous messages that we have received, how appreciative you are of the quality of work that has been set. I hope that by now, you are all managing to settle into a routine as a family and have managed to establish what a 'normal' day looks like in this current climate.

Today we break up for the Easter holidays. It seems very odd saying that considering the school has already been 'closed' for two weeks! However, throughout the last two weeks, we have been setting work as normal via BLOODLE and hopefully our young people have been able to continue with their studies. We will not be setting any work for pupils over Easter. It's important that we give staff and pupils a rest and also that as a family you get a break and get to spend some quality time together. As a parent myself, I appreciate how difficult balancing everything is at the moment whilst also trying to keep an eye on what school work is being completed.

When we 'return' after the Easter break, we will continue to set work for the pupils via BLOODLE. Over the last few weeks we have been trialing different approaches to making remote learning more interactive for pupils, particularly for those in Year 10 and 12. Hopefully after Easter we will be able to introduce some different approaches to how we are setting work, which will support the pupils in their studies but also help keep them engaged and enthused.

Today we received the announcement about how GCSE and A-Level grades will be allocated. As a school will be asked to collate our evidence on how the pupils have been working (books, mocks, assessments, teacher input) and submit a projected grade for each pupil in every subject. There is still some additional information to be released about the actual methodology for this and what schools are expected to provide/evidence, and I will share this information in more detail with you after Easter when we have it. More communication on this will follow, but we will do everything we can to ensure that the pupils get the grades they deserve. We will also support the pupils in relation to their destinations for next year and will do everything we can to ensure they get the provision of their choice and the one that is right for them.

After today's announcement, we will no longer be setting work for Year 11 and Year 13. We still intend to provide our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils with a Prom and a Leavers' Assembly because that is their entitlement and they need the opportunity to celebrate all of their hard work and come together as a community once again. Obviously, both of these are out of our hands at the moment, but again we will provide updates as soon as we have any information.



Easter provides a sign of hope for the future, which is especially pertinent in this current health crisis. I would like to share with you the words our school Chaplain shared with staff today.

“The LORD bless you
and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”

(Numbers 6:24-26)

Wishing you a safe, restful and peaceful Easter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R. Higgins
Headteacher
The Blue Coat School

