



The Blue Coat School

www.blue-coat.oldham.sch.uk

Proud to be part of the Cranmer Education Trust

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Our Reference: RHIGG/CLA/510

21st April, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well and that you had a peaceful Easter break.

This is not the start to the summer term we all envisaged at the start of the academic year and we hope and pray for a return to 'normality', when it is safe and possible to do so.

Blue Coat is now 'open' again after the Easter break for the children of keyworkers and others who need a place, in line with Government guidance/regulations. The educational provision offered to those keyworker children who need to attend Blue Coat so that their parents/carers can go to work, will be the same online learning as for all other pupils.

Educational Provision

We will continue to set work for all pupils via BLOODLE. This term we will be making some of the learning activities the pupils are set more interactive, particularly for those in Year 12 and Year 10, and we have been exploring the use of different online platforms to do this. Obviously not all lessons can be like this and moving forward, the work and tasks that the pupils are set will vary dependent upon the subject and where they are up to on the curriculum.

Hopefully, by now, the pupils are starting to adapt to working from home and getting into some sort of routine. As we are all undoubtedly finding, working remotely presents significant challenges for individuals and even more so for families, as we all try to juggle priorities. Every pupil's routine to work will be different and must be based upon what works for them and their family. Pupils will continue to be set work but please remember, it will be different to being in school. We are not expecting our young people to be sat at a laptop or working at a table for 5 one-hour lessons, based upon what their timetable was for that day.

Work set by staff will be dependent upon the stage of the learning journey the pupils are up to. Teaching staff will sequence work carefully and communicate to the pupils what work needs to be completed, how and by when. This will give pupils and families the flexibility to decide what learning looks like each day and will hopefully help our young people with their organisation and time management in the future. If for any reason you are having trouble with the work being set or accessing it, please contact studentservices@blue-coat.org



Year 11 and Year 13

We are no longer setting or collecting work for Year 11 and Year 13 pupils. The examination boards and Ofqual will shortly be collecting data from us based upon where students were on their learning journey prior to Easter 2020. We are currently putting this data together and are using mock exams, previous assessments and teachers' professional judgment to do this, whilst also taking into account personal circumstances. Contrary to what is being reported in some parts of the press, schools are not submitting predicted grades which will be awarded to the pupils.

Examination boards will use the data collected from schools and then complete a statistical exercise to allocate grades in line with Blue Coat data and other schools' past performance. Blue Coat is a high achieving school and has been over many years. Our pupils consistently achieve very strong outcomes, but they also demonstrate considerable progress from their starting point, so they are as well placed as any. We are hopeful that our pupils will all be awarded the grades they deserve.

Teachers and schools are not allowed to share any grade information with pupils or parents. Please be assured that we have clear systems and structures in place across all departments to make sure that any data we submit is clear, robust, and fair. Any data we submit we also recognise progress to date but also account for the progress that would have been made over the next few months.

We will also do everything we can to support our pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 with the progression to the next stage of their education. Over the course of the summer term, we will also start to provide Year 11 pupils with bridging work, so that they can consolidate their learning from GCSE and prepare for their A-Level studies.

The term ahead

As soon as we have any more information about what will or is proposed to happen with schools, we will contact you immediately. For now, we will continue to work as best we can to support our young people amidst the many challenges that this health crisis is presenting.

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R. Higgins
Headteacher
The Blue Coat School

