



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/517

1st June, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. You have all been in our thoughts and prayers during these challenging times.

You will have all received a letter from Mrs Hollis outlining the Trust arrangements to accommodate more pupils returning to school. This letter will provide more information about what the arrangements for Blue Coat will start to look like over the next few weeks.

From Monday, 1st June 2020 - Blue Coat will remain open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers **only**. These will be the same pupils who were attending up to half term. I appreciate that with recent Government announcements and the lifting of some restrictions, that circumstances may have changed for some families. If so, please contact secretary@blue-coat.org. Please do not send your child to school until you have had a conversation with a member of staff, so that we have the opportunity to make any adjustments to our staffing as necessary.

From Monday, 15th June 2020 - We intend to offer all pupils in Years 10 and 12 some face-to-face contact with some of their teaching staff, as per Government guidance. As we can never have more than 25% of a year group on site, what we will offer will be a reduced curriculum. The complexities of our school site and how many children we can safely fit in each classroom also reduces what we are able to offer. We are working on the specific details for what this will look like this week and will update you with finalised arrangements next week, so as a family you have time to prepare and discuss arrangements.

The principles we are working towards are that:

- All pupils in Year 10 will be offered one four-hour session per week, with one of their teachers, during the remaining 5 school weeks. The subjects we are offering this provision in are English, maths, science, MFL and humanities.
- All pupils in Year 12 will be offered one four-hour session in each of their A-Level subjects with one of their teachers.
- The sessions that pupils have with their staff will be an opportunity to 'refuel'. Staff will revisit the content and material that pupils have been set over the last term and look to address any misconceptions or gaps in knowledge. Work will then be set for the remainder of the term and the summer that builds on the foundations the pupils have established.
- We aim to film the 'refuelling' sessions and share these with any pupils in Year 10 and 12 who cannot attend Blue Coat for any reason.
- Remote learning will continue for all other year groups and for subjects in Year 10 where we cannot offer face-to-face provision.



We are working on the specific operational details this week and I imagine you will have a number of questions – which day will my child be invited in school, what time do they need to arrive, are the buses running, what if they can't get to Blue Coat, how will you ensure social distancing? I will answer all these questions and many more next week when I will provide with you the specific details of what a 'normal' day at Blue Coat, will now look like.

We have been working incredibly hard to get the school ready for the return of larger pupil numbers. We have completed a thorough risk assessment of the site that meets all health and safety advice and guidance. We have done everything we can to make sure Blue Coat will be as safe as it possibly can be for pupils and staff.

With the size and complexity of our site, it will take us this week to make all the necessary changes to classroom layouts and to routes around the school. We also have to be aware that as throughout this pandemic, guidance can change at any time, as can the staffing we have at our disposal. We will contact parents at the start of next week to share the 'new' operational and logistic details for life at Blue Coat, as we enter this next phase in our response to COVID-19.

Sadly, we are still unable to offer any on site provision for pupils in Year 7 – 9 who are not classed as vulnerable or key worker children. I know that many parents / carers and our young people themselves, may be feeling frustrated and anxious about how much time in school has now be missed. In relation to this I can only offer reassurance.

We will bring back the children when it is safe to do so. When they do come back to Blue Coat, **they will** catch up on the work they have missed. The work staff have been setting is being very carefully planned. Staff are setting work that allows our young people to consolidate their knowledge, learning and understanding. This is the fundamental part of home learning – what the pupils do and produce themselves is the most important aspect. As long as pupils are engaging with the work that is set (and remember they will all do this in different ways), they will return to Blue Coat with the necessary building blocks of knowledge they require and the increased resilience they need to be successful.

We all eagerly await having more children back at Blue Coat when it is safe to so.

Hoping that you and your families all continue to stay safe and well.

God Bless.



Mr R. Higgins
Headteacher
The Blue Coat School

