

4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to St Anne's, now a member of The Cranmer Education Trust with Blue Coat, St George's, Mayfield, our teacher training arm Manchester Nexus and our Teaching School Alliance. In September 2022 we will be 5 schools when The Brian Clarke Church of England Academy (www.brian-clarke.org) opens.

We are looking forward so much to welcoming back all our young people.

This letter is mainly about arrangements for the opening of our schools, and the measures/controls that are being put in place to keep everyone safe. But first, I am sure you will want to join me in **thanking all the staff** across all our schools who have kept provision going for our young people during the latest lockdown, teaching and looking after both children in school and children at home through direct, remote and blended learning. It has been a huge challenge, and an achievement.

Thank you to parents/carers who have supported children across all our schools who have kept them going with learning! Thank you to those of you who nominated their school and staff to the Manchester Evening News "They deserve a medal" feature. It was **very much** appreciated.

Opening Arrangements

All primary pupils return on Monday, 8th March 2021. Secondary students will start to return to school for testing from 5th March at St Anne's and 8th March at Blue Coat, prior to lessons starting again. The Headteachers will be writing to you providing full details of the arrangements in each of our schools.

COVID Testing for Secondary Pupils

Your Headteacher has contacted parents with the detailed arrangements to enable young people to be tested before they return to see if they are asymptomatic – i.e. they have COVID and therefore, could infect others, but they are not showing any symptoms.

Two key issues here are:

1. Consent **must** be given in advance. A pupil cannot just arrive and be tested without prior consent. These are Public Health England and government rules.
2. Managing young people coming in safely means that we have to set times of arrival. Please understand that your school cannot work around individual preferences. We have to work together to achieve a safe return. We will do our bit to the best of our ability – please enable us to do this by keeping to the time set for your child.

To enable all pupils to return safely there are some additional measures necessary:

- **Secondary Pupils/Face Masks**

In addition to all the other controls, (hand washing, sanitising, ventilation, distancing etc, Public Health England advises that secondary pupils should also wear face masks. **In our schools, secondary pupils, unless they are exempt (for which evidence must be provided to the Headteacher) are expected to wear face masks:**

- indoors in corridors and communal areas where they cannot distance.
- in lessons.

This is to further reduce the chance of someone catching the virus, which in this present form is now more contagious. Face masks are not required outside.

Please help us to help your children and our community by backing the mask-wearing requirement with your son/daughter. Let them know that you support us, because this is what enables us to get everyone back and having more of a “normal” life; and the sooner transmission is stopped, because people are being really careful, including wearing face masks, the sooner we **can** return to our normal lives in full.

- **Staff**

Staff working in schools are not a priority group for the vaccine. Therefore, they have to be careful. Staff will normally wear face masks in school in areas where they cannot maintain 2m distancing from pupils.

- **Primary pupils** are **not** advised to wear face masks.

- **All adult visitors to schools must** wear a mask when dropping off/collecting their child. As before, please do not congregate at the school gates or when accessing school. This just increases the risks of the virus spreading.

GCSE and A-Level Grades

This year grades will be based on school assessments, based on the work your son/daughter has done during the school year so far and the work they will do from 8th March 2021.

Again, we need your support to encourage and help our young people to keep going with their education and learning. It has been (and continues to be) a very difficult time. But it will pass, and we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The main thing is to ensure our young people are ready for future progression. To have the best chances here they will need their grades, and what they have done and will do will feed directly into those grades.

Our schools will do their very best for our young people. Please help us by encouraging and supporting your young people to do their best as well.

We are all hoping that the next 4 weeks to Easter will be relatively straightforward in all 4 schools. Sadly, there will still be COVID cases where pupils and staff may be contacts and will need to self-isolate for 10 days. We know that it is going to happen to someone, but if we work together and all behave responsibly in and out of school, we can minimise that risk and enable all our young people to be able to enjoy their education.

The Trust verse for the year, from Psalm 62, 5-6, is really helpful. We all need a rock at times like this – to stand on, or just to cling to. The work of faith gives us hope for our children’s future. And there are lots of positive messages happening.

Do keep in touch via our websites, and through our Facebook (@CranmerEDT) and Twitter (@CranmerTrust).

*Find rest my soul, In God alone;
My hope comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress;
I will not be shaken.*

Keep well and God Bless.

Yours sincerely,



JULIE HOLLIS
Chief Executive Officer
The Cranmer Education Trust