



# Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Website: [www.bluecoatacademy.org](http://www.bluecoatacademy.org)  
Principal: Mr D Smith

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July marks the end of a very challenging year at Blue Coat and I would like to thank you for your support through all of the challenging circumstances which we have had to navigate during the pandemic. We will continue to operate in bubbles with all of the existing restrictions in place until the end of term in line with the advice of our local Public Health team, but the expectation is that we will return to more normal ways of operating in September.

School will commence at the normal time and lessons will run as normal during the morning and then pupils will return to forms after period 3. With a phased dismissal from 12.15p.m. onwards. The normal canteen service will not be available on the last day of term but there will be an opportunity for pupils to order a packed lunch on that day.

The last day of term will be a fundraising non-uniform day, with a minimum donation of £1 per pupil. All monies raised will be added to our fundraising for Muslim Aid and Save the Children.

There is no expectation that pupils will continue with home Coronavirus testing over the summer holidays, more information on testing moving forward are included in this letter.

## **Collection of Exam Results**

Years 12 and 13 – A Level results will be available on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 8.30am.

Year 11 – GCSE results can be collected on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 9.00am.

Please collect all results from the main hall. Further information on examinations including details of the appeals process can be found on the school website:

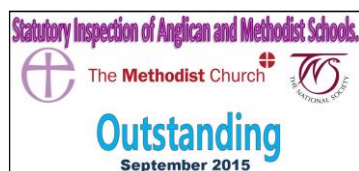
[www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/examination-arrangements](http://www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/examination-arrangements)

## **Uniform**

Uniform is something upon which we pride ourselves. Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform, with the Blue Coat badge. If buying new shoes for your child this summer, please ensure they are plain black with no logos and definitely no training shoes. All pupils must be in full uniform for the start of the new term. Should you have any queries regarding the uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school before the end of term. I appreciate all of your support in ensuring pupils adhere to our Uniform Policy.

The school P.E. uniform can only be purchased from school, orders can be placed via School Gateway which you can register for and log into via the school website:

[www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/online-payments](http://www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/online-payments)



Orders can be collected from the school reception on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August between 12.00p.m. and 2.00p.m., on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August between 2.00p.m. and 4.00p.m. or on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September between 9.00a.m. and 3.00p.m..** Cash purchases of items of P.E. uniform can also be made at these times.

### **Survey**

We would appreciate if you could spare the time to complete the survey via the link below regarding Progress Reports. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/progressreport>

### **Autumn Term**

The academy re-opens for pupils next term on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021. There will be a phased return to school to accommodate the Coronavirus testing which we need to undertake. We will only need to gain consent for Year 7 pupils joining us in September and for any pupil where consent has not previously been provided.

The overview of arrangements is shown below, **arrangements will vary slightly for each form group and an individualised email will be sent to parents and carers on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July.** If you haven't received this email by 4.00p.m., please complete the form to update contact details: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentContactInfoSummer2021](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentContactInfoSummer2021)

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

**Year 7** return and will remain in school throughout the day. Pupils will be invited in their form groups to be tested in staggered sessions (beginning at 8.30a.m.), which I appreciate will be inconvenient for some families but it is the only way we can safely manage the initial round of testing.

**Year 12 and 13** will be invited in at intervals from 10.45a.m. and will return home after the test has been completed. Lessons will commence on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Year 11** will be invited in at intervals from 1.30p.m. and will return home after the test has been completed. Lessons will commence on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**Year 8** return and will remain in school throughout the day. Pupils will be invited in their form groups to be tested in staggered sessions (beginning at 8.30a.m.).

**Year 9** will be invited in at intervals from 10.45a.m. and will return home after the test has been completed. Lessons will commence on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Year 10** will be invited in at intervals from 1.30p.m. and will return home after the test has been completed. Lessons will commence on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Communication**

Our school website is regularly updated with information for parents and carers. I would encourage you to regularly visit the website for the latest information. The lessons of the last eighteen months have taught us to expect things to change and the website will be our best means of communicating any changes or updates to our plans for September.

Please note that the Academy reception is no longer staffed during holiday periods and no one is available to deal with enquiries during these times. Enquiries can be emailed to

[postbox@bluecoatacademy.org](mailto:postbox@bluecoatacademy.org) and these will be checked and responded to on a fortnightly basis through the summer break.

I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with pupil, parents and carers to ensure that we build on the positives of the last year while supporting high levels of achievement and progress as things slowly return to normal. I know that I, along with all of the staff and governors at Blue Coat Academy are grateful for your continued support over the past year and look forward to working with you again next year. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, restful and peaceful summer break.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Smith  
Principal

### **Secondary school and college – summer and autumn testing arrangements Update from the Department for Education**

Thank you for your continued engagement in the Covid-19 testing programme. Please continue to encourage your child to test twice weekly and report the results until the end of the summer term.

The asymptomatic testing programme is being paused for students in secondary schools and colleges that will be closed over the summer holidays. If you or your child are not attending a setting over the summer but wish to access rapid lateral flow testing, you can continue to do so by ordering LFD test kits from GOV.UK or by collecting kits from your local pharmacy.

**If your child is transitioning to new educational settings, they should start testing on arrival at their new setting in the autumn.**

We are unsure about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. Subject to public health advice, testing may restart on return in the autumn. If it does, we expect to offer your child **two** tests on-site before continuing regular testing at home.

This is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support your child's mental wellbeing. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

**You must report your child's test results, even if their result is negative or void.** You should also keep a note of and share your child's results with their school. At Blue Coat the links to report results are available on the school website:

[www.bluecoatacademy.org/staff-links/student-quick-links](http://www.bluecoatacademy.org/staff-links/student-quick-links)

**Reporting results is easy.** Go to [report a COVID-19 lateral flow test result](#) or call 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language.

Testing twice weekly is helping us stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and plan our response. The preparations that schools and colleges are advised to take are subject to further public health advice and the latest position on prevalence of the COVID-19 virus.