



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

2nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school next week. The academy re-opens for pupils on Monday 6th 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 re-sent to parents and carers on Thursday 2nd September.** Please check spam and junk folders if you don't receive the email. If you haven't received this email by 4.00p.m., please complete the form to update your contact details:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParentContactInfoSummer2021

Monday 6th September

Year 7 return and will remain in school throughout the day. Pupils will be invited in a form at an arrival time (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 7th September.

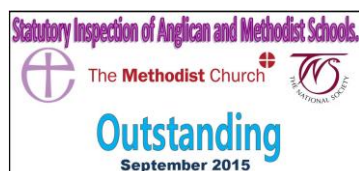
Year 11 will be invited in at intervals from 1.30p.m. and will return home after the test has been completed. Lessons will commence on Tuesday 7th September.

Tuesday 7th September

Year 8 return and will remain in school throughout the day. Pupils will be invited in a form at an arrival time (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 8th 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 8th September.



Wednesday 8th September will be a normal school day and we are maintaining the practice of year groups entering by a single point of entry – forms for each year group will be clustered within one area of the school.

Year 7 – enter via the doors near the music classrooms in the Grove building. Head of Year is Mrs Cockayne

Year 8 – enter doors under the walkway into the main building. Head of Year Mr Pittaway

Year 9 – enter via the front of the Tonks Building. Head of Year Mr Hendy

Years 10 & 11 – enter via the main doors into Grove. Head of Year Wrighton

Year 12 – Doors next to Room 13/Quad and external door into D1 (for D1 & D2). Head of Year is Miss Vernon

Year 13 - Rear entrance of the Tonks Building. Head of Year is Miss Vernon

Uniform

Uniform is something upon which we pride ourselves. Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform, with the Blue Coat badge. Please ensure shoes 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 your child's Head of Year. I appreciate all of your support in ensuring pupils adhere to our Uniform Policy. No hoodies are allowed in school (these will be confiscated) and only clear nose studs are allowed.

Students will be expected to wear P.E. uniform on days when they have P.E. lessons, removing the need to changing provides a prompter start to lessons and more lesson time in P.E.

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

This system is now also available for pupils joining us in Year 7. I would urge you to register as this also make payments much easier – including for school lunches.

Thank you to those families who have collected P.E. uniform during the holiday. As previously, advised orders can be collected from the school reception on **Friday 3rd September between 9.00a.m. and 3.00p.m.** Cash purchases of items of P.E. uniform can also be made at these times.

I am very much looking forward to students returning to school and sincerely hope that we will be able to operate more normally in the coming year. There will undoubtedly be challenges as things begin to return to normal and I would again ask for your support in ensuring that we work collectively to keep our community as safe and as healthy as possible. In school we will continue to promote good hygiene, continue with the cleaning regimes developed in response to COVID-19 and ensuring rooms are well ventilated. Your support with engagement in the on-going testing and vaccination programmes would be very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Smith
Principal

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

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

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.