



Blue Coat

Church of England School
& Music College

Terry Road
Coventry
CV1 2BA
024 7622 3542
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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: September opening

We are excited to be planning to open in September full time to all students in line with the government guidance. Our risk assessment will be available shortly for you to read on our website as we plan to open in the safest possible way. More detailed information will be sent to parents/carers next week although this is with the caveat that plans remain fluid as we respond to government advice throughout the summer.

We are planning to operate in the following ways:

- We will operate a phased return in the first week and a half to induct students into the new procedures and expectations. This will be a mixture of lessons and pastoral support which will enable us to support all children as they return to school whilst reviewing daily the logistics of our new ways of working and making necessary adjustments in line with our risk assessment.
- Social distancing will still be very important. There is no specific distance to follow but students and staff will need to respect each other's space.
- Breaks and lunch will be staggered and zoned to allow for as much social distancing as possible and to keep year groups apart from one another.
- We will follow a full curriculum offer with all students studying all subjects, although individual lessons may look different to keep in line with health and safety requirements.

Our greatest challenge is to maintain social distance and social contact between students, especially across year groups. We know that students will interact through families, friends, on public transport and through wider out of school activity. The DFE advises us to manage this as far as is practically possible. We are therefore making the following changes:

- Year groups will be zoned in buildings across the school where they will remain for the majority of their lessons, only moving out for practical lessons. This enables us to separate year groups but maintain a full curriculum offer whilst providing time for enhanced cleaning in practical areas between year group use. Each year will have a staggered break and lunch, appointed toilets and a zone to go to during social time.
- We will keep our House based pastoral system but move students back into year based tutor groups to avoid the mixing of different age groups at the start of the day. This means that each House will have two tutor groups of each year. Sixth form tutor groups will also be reorganised into separate Year 12 and Year 13 groups.

It is very important to understand that with so many students on site social distancing is not the main shield we now have against the virus. We need students to avoid touching one another and to respect each other's personal space. We will need to work together as a school community to minimise the risk of transmission and keep one another safe in the following ways:

- Staff and students will need to hand wash routinely and properly. Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms but we also request students to bring their own.
- Tissues will be available in all classrooms and we request students to bring their own so that we can 'catch it, kill it, bin it' as per the government advice.



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- Staff and students need to keep their distance and respect each other's space whether in a classroom, toilet or queue. This will require excellent behaviour and real effort with so many students on a fairly constricted site. We will update the Behaviour policy addendum to reflect this.
- We cannot lend equipment so students must attend prepared for the day ahead with sufficient items such as pens, pencil, rulers, calculators, glue and a reading book.
- Students must not gather in groups as they arrive and depart from the school. We will support this in the immediate vicinity, but we all need our students to manage themselves responsibly in the local streets.
- The special buses will run but please avoid public transport wherever possible; choose instead to walk, cycle or use private vehicles as per the government guidance. Please do not drop off students close to the school site. This creates congestion and large groups and makes it harder for us to keep the students safe on a busy road.
- The Home Learning Platform ClassCharts will continue for homework, revision and as a contingency for any further disruption. We have also purchased 'GCSE Pod' which will go live before the summer for students in Years 10 and 11 to use over this period. This is in addition to the other platforms we use such as Kerboodle, Seneca and My Maths.
- Uniform will be worn in full for students in Year7-11 with smart dress in the sixth form. The main point to note is that the Blue Coat blazer must now show the revised school badge on the pocket. Please note that where existing blazers are still serviceable parents have two options. You can either purchase a cloth badge from the supplier *Cat Ballou* which can be sewn on the pocket, replacing the old badge. (Cost £5) OR provide *Andy Blair* with an existing blazer. The company will then remove the old badge for you and sew on the new one. (Cost £12). *Andy Blair* will also provide a £10 discount on new blazers if the old one is traded in part exchange. The other main issue to consider is skirts. Only regulation 'Blue Coat skirts' will be permissible. These are available from all our outfitters. They have the school badge on them. It will not be allowed for a school badge to be sewn onto existing skirts. Students may choose to wear black trousers as an alternative. For a complete listing of all the uniform changes please consult the Uniform Policy directly.

You will receive further information next week which details the following information that is personalised to your child:

- Their tutor name and tutor room
- The days they will be attending as we welcome children back to the school site
- The timings of the school day which include a staggered departure from 3pm onwards

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

Mrs V Shelley
Headteacher