

15th July 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone for your continued support during this very strange and challenging year. It has been enormously demanding for all of us, starting with the extremely sad passing of our beloved head teacher Alan Chapman, who we miss every day. This was followed by the stress and elation of our very successful Ofsted visit, followed immediately by the complex and extraordinary challenges thrown at us by the COVID-19 virus. As ever, our students have made us extremely proud during all of these challenges and we would like to thank you all for what has been an extremely challenging time for us all.

As you may be aware on the 2nd July the Government released new guidance on the full opening of all schools and educational settings. Within this guidance there are a set of control systems that are endorsed by Public Health England that all schools must follow. Many of these control measures have already been adopted this term and are highlighted at the end of this letter.

Government are now stating that the prevalence of COVID-19 has decreased and the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running. This along with the measures that schools need to adopt show that given this improved position the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children and young people returning to school.

One of the measures is to minimise the contact between individuals and maintain social distancing where possible. In order to facilitate this, we will be adopting 'class bubbles' from September. This will mean that your child will remain in their class with consistent staff. The curriculum will continue to remain broad and balanced. As part of our lessons we will also support the rebuilding of friendships and support students with approaches to improving physical and mental wellbeing.

We will continue to review our structures, measures and systems regularly taking into account advice from appropriate authorities e.g. Public Health England.

Catcote Academy

Full return of all students from September 2020 (Advice for parents/carers)

Protective measures will be put in place for staff and students **as far as possible** to ensure the risk of transmission is **reduced**. We know that transmission of the disease happens through direct (coughing, sneezing) and indirect (touching surfaces) transmission.

Minimise contact:

- Classes will operate in class bubbles in order to minimise the number of contacts.
- Where possible there will be several entrances and exits to reduce pinch points.
- Students will have access to larger outdoor spaces and their use will be staggered.
- Students will eat in their own class.
- Students will have access to their own resources. Any shared resources will be cleaned before someone else uses them.
- No visitors including parents will be allowed into the building without prior approval from the Head Teacher/Senior Leadership Team.
- For some student's, risk assessments may mean that staff will need to wear protective clothing (this will be discussed with families).

Socially distancing:

- Where possible social distancing measures will be put in place and classrooms will be adjusted to enable this, however we know that for the vast majority of our students this will be very difficult.

Cleaning:

- There will be increased cleaning including regular washing down of surfaces including tables, chairs, handles, light switches etc.

Hand and respiratory hygiene:

- All students will be asked to clean hands frequently throughout the day including entry to the school, before and after eating and before leaving the school.
- Students who find hand washing difficult will be engaged in activities that involve soapy water play.
- Students will be taught to use tissues when coughing and sneezing and to place these in a lidded bin.

Curriculum:

- The curriculum for students will remain broad and balanced and initially there will be a strong focus on rebuilding friendships and social engagement, emotional and physical well-being.
- Outdoor spaces will be used as much as possible.
- There will be no offsite visits initially however we will review this after two weeks of being back in school.
- If there are students that need to remain at home following medical advice work will be sent home and absence will be authorised.

Transport:

- We encourage parents to bring their child into school where they can as there will be reduced capacity on the buses due to social distancing measures being put in place and also the need to try and transport students in their 'class bubbles'.
- Students will be greeted by their staff on a morning and taken straight to their class.
- Any independent travellers that come into school on public transport need to continue to follow guidance e.g. wear face mask whilst on the bus.
- Transport may need to stagger pick up and drop off times and will inform you over the summer break.

Return dates:

- Our last day before the summer break is the 17th July and students will be returning from the 3rd September. There has been a change to our original return date to allow further training days in preparation for the safe return of all students.
- In order to safely practise the use of different entrances and exits we will need to phase the return of the full school over a two-day period. The table below highlights which day your child will be in school the first week back (pastoral teachers will inform you in their phone calls which class your child will be in from September). From Monday 7th September, all students will be in full time.

Zone	Thursday 3 rd September	Friday 4 th September
1	Class 1 (Mrs Wharton) Class 2 (Miss Laythorpe) <i>This will be half the classes and teachers will be in touch to inform you which day your child will be in</i>	Class 1 (Mrs Wharton) Class 2 (Miss Laythorpe) <i>This will be half the classes and teachers will be in touch to inform you which day your child will be in</i>
2	Class 4 (Mr. Ash)	S1 (Mrs. Church)
3	Class 8 (Mr. D. Kitson) Class 3 (M Waites)	Class 13 (Miss. Currell) S6 (Mr. Durkin)
4	Class 7 (Mrs. Lawton) Link 4 (Mrs. Naughton) Link 2 (Mrs. Gray)	Class 12 (Mr. R Kitson) Link 3 (L Richardson)
5	Link 1 (Miss. Carter) Class 10 (Miss. Watkins)	Class 11 (Mr. Foster) Class 9 (Mrs. Burns)
6	Class 6 (Miss Harrison) Class 14 (Miss Harrison)	Class 5 (Miss. Newton)
7 (Educated on the English Martyrs School site)	15 (Mrs. Matthews)	16 (Miss. Ervine)
Sixth form Brierton site	S5 (G Durkin) S4 (P Sowerby)	S2 (J Stephenson) S3 (M Butler)

Please note any students transitioning to Catcote Futures will receive another letter outlining their arrangements for September.

Contingency planning:

- We are currently working on our contingency plans in the eventuality of second wave. We will ensure that there is a curriculum in place for remote education should there be a need again for temporary closure.

Other important information:

- If your child or a member of your household, shows any symptoms they must not attend school or college and must isolate at home in line with Government guidelines (which can be found on our website).
- It is important to engage with NHS test and Trace.
- Attendance of all students is expected except those who need to remain at home following professional advice. If your child is absent due to professional advice you will not be penalised.
- Testing is available for staff and students that show symptoms through a self-referral system.
- Students at home should be following socially distancing measures with their families and not engaging in wider social interactions in line with Government guidelines.
- It is very important that we have an up to date contact number and that you are contactable during the day.
- We will write to you again in the last week of the summer holidays with any updates

Kindest Regards



Mrs L. Greig

(Interim CEO)