

19th August 2020

Dear Families,

We are really looking forward to welcoming back your children and young people in September, we have missed them so much. We have been busy ensuring we have a range of control measures (endorsed by Public Health England) in place to reduce risk as much as possible. These were communicated to you in a letter in July, however we have included them again in this letter as a reminder.

The 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 including those that were previously shielding.

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on the 1st August. Even the small number of students that remain on the list can return. For any students that remain under the care of specialist health professional's guidance strongly recommends that you contact your named health professional/consultant to discuss the care of your child before they return to school/college. If in these discussions health professionals think extra measures need to be put in place above what is listed in this letter it is very important you alert school/college straight away so that we can put plans in place for the safe return of your child/young person. You can alert the school/college on the admin email: admin@catcote.co.uk. A member of staff will contact you to discuss any additional measures that your specialist health professional has suggested. If you need any further support with this, please also contact our local designated clinical officer Ruth Kimmins on 07881 258557 or alternatively via email: ruth.kimmins@nhs.net

As you will be aware 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 and 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.
- Where appropriate teachers will adapt their classroom to support distancing.
- 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. Where possible close face to face contact will be avoided and we will minimise the time spent within 1 metre of anyone where possible.

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:

- Government guidance recognises that some mixing in wider groups may need to take place, for example, when on transport. In order to reduce mixing as much as possible students will be transported into school/college within a zone, which means that they will mix with students outside their class bubble.
- Students will be greeted by their staff on a morning and taken straight to their class via their allocated entrance.
- In accordance with advice from public health England the government are now recommending that from September children and young people over the age of 11 should wear a face covering on dedicated school transport. Students who would be exempt would include students who cannot put on, wear or remove the face covering due to physical or mental illness or impairment or disability or if the wearing of one would cause severe stress. If you feel your child or young person is able to wear one and understands how to handle their face covering properly this can be a reusable or single use face covering. If reusable face coverings are used students should bring in a plastic bag to keep their face covering in when in school/college. We have included a link on our website on how to wear a covering (COVID-Guidance).
- Any independent travellers that come into school on public transport need to continue to follow guidance e.g. wear face covering whilst on the bus.
- To support good respiratory hygiene students are encouraged to have tissues on them in case they are needed on transport.
- If you intend to transport your child in there will be drop off/visitor bays on the academy side immediately on the left as you enter the car park.
- If you have any further queries around transport, please contact them directly on 01429 284382.

Return dates:

- 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. This means that your child will only be in one day the first week back either Thursday 3rd September **OR** Friday 4th 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)

Contingency planning:

- We are currently working on our contingency plans in the eventuality of second wave or local outbreak. 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). Please note that any child or young person who test positive must now stay off for 10 days rather than 7 days and household members would quarantine for 14 days.
- 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 and it is very important that you get your child tested promptly in the event your child shows symptoms.
- 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.
- If you have returned to the UK from abroad in the summer holidays, please ensure you check Government guidelines to see if you need to quarantine before returning to school/college. If you need to quarantine please inform the school/college on the admin email (admin@catcote.co.uk)

Kindest Regards

L J Greig

Mrs L. Greig

(Interim CEO)