

20th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to my previous communication, I am writing to provide an update of our plans and once more thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as well as the kind messages of support we have received from parents and carers.

I am delighted to announce that following the additional survey and investigative work by the school and ECC that has taken place in the first two weeks of term, that I will be in a position to reopen North Block and the double storey section of the C Block from Monday 25th September. These are teaching areas where it has been confirmed that there is no RAAC present. The use of these additional 14 rooms means that we will be able to increase our onsite capacity for students from next week and our staff will use the INSET day on Friday 22nd September to reassemble these teaching areas ready for students on Monday. Students will be able to access North Block through the canteen entrance only and the double storey C Block area through the external playground doors and external staircase for the upper floor.

To resolve reinstating the remaining teaching areas, further intrusive survey work has already been commissioned by the Academy Trust of these buildings. These surveys will involve tower scaffolds and specialist equipment due to the height of our ceilings in some areas of the school. This will take place over the next couple of weeks, including weekends, and I will continue to keep you informed on the results and the implications. We hope that this work will also confirm that they do not have any RAAC and we can then look to bring all pupils back to school in the coming weeks.

At the same time, in case we discover there are any sites that cannot be released, we are continuing with our RAAC response mitigations, with ground works surveys also taking place next week in preparation for any temporary accommodation, should we find that this is still required.

Below, I have detailed the arrangements for the next two weeks, but should we get information back from our surveyors earlier than scheduled that I can reopen areas sooner, I will of course review these arrangements and keep parents and carers updated.

Headteacher: Sarah Cox, BA (Hons)
Croft Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5RN **Tel:** 01268 794215
Email: info@theappletonschool.org **Website:** www.theappletonschool.org

The week beginning Monday 25th September **Week B** will operate as follows:

Monday 25th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 8, 10, 11 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 8 and Year 13 should make their way to their form rooms for morning registration (as per their timetable), with Year 11 reporting to the Sports Hall and Year 10 lining up on the lower playground. Years 7, 9 and 12 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Tuesday 26th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 10, 11 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 13 should make their way to their form rooms, Year 11 should report to the Sports Hall with Year 10 lining up on the lower playground. Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Wednesday 27th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 7 and 12 should make their way to their form rooms with Year 8 lining up on the lower playground and Year 9 reporting to the Sports Hall. Years 10, 11, and 13 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Thursday 28th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 9, 11, 12 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start, Sixth Form making their way to their form rooms for morning registration and Year 11 making their way to the Sports Hall and Year 9 lining up on the lower playground. Years 7, 8 and 10 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Friday 29th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start, Sixth Form and Year 7 making their way to their form rooms for morning registration and Year 11 making their way to the Sports Hall. Year 10 will attend school for an 8:30am start and will be on site for Period 1 and Period 2. They should line up on the lower playground when they arrive and they will have an assignment set for Period 3 due to travel home and resume live lessons periods 4 and 5 on Microsoft Teams. Years 8 and 9 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.

The week beginning Monday 2nd October **Week A** will operate as follows:

Monday 2nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 7, 10, 12 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 7 and Sixth Form should make their way to their form rooms for morning registration (as per their timetable). Year 10 should report to the Sports Hall. Year 7 students attending the teambuilding trip on this day should arrive at Gate A by 7.30 am for their scheduled departure. Years 8, 9 and 11 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Tuesday 3rd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years 7, 9, 11 and 12 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 7 and Year 12 should report to their form rooms and Year 11 should make their way to the Sports Hall with Year 9 lining up on the lower playground. Year 7 students attending the teambuilding trip on this day should arrive at Gate A by at 7.30 am for their scheduled departure. Years 8, 10 and 13 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.

Wednesday 4th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 8, 10, 11 and 12 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 8 and 12 should make their way to their form rooms with Year 11 lining up on the lower playground and Year 10 reporting to the Sports Hall. • Years 7, 9 and 13 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Thursday 5th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 8, 11, 12 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start, Sixth Form making their way to their form rooms for morning registration and Year 11 making their way to the Sports Hall and Year 8 lining up on the lower playground. • Years 7, 9 and 10 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Friday 6th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 9, 10, 11 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start, Sixth Form should make their way to their form rooms for morning registration and Year 10 making their way to the Sports Hall. Year 9 will line up on the lower playground. Year 10 will have allocated form rooms and will make their way there for registration. • Years 7, 8 and 12 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.

We will continue to seek alternatives and mitigations to support all our students to receive face-to-face education, but we have to continue with an element of remote teaching due to the limited physical teaching spaces. We value all our students, but I trust that you can appreciate that we need to prioritise our examination cohorts, with all year groups in on rotation. Our onsite provision for vulnerable students when they are due to be on remote learning will continue and students qualifying for free school meals will receive vouchers for the weeks they are on remote learning.

There continues to be a full canteen service available and students will be dismissed from school at 3.00pm. On days where students are timetabled on site for PE they will need to wear their Appleton PE kit until further notice. Just a reminder that we have also made changes to our student entrances; from Croft Road students should use the new pedestrian Gate A entrance. The back gate will also be available at the start and end of the school day. With our visitor Gate A car park repurposed as the new pedestrian entrance and front reception areas still inaccessible, it is not possible to accommodate any visitors to our site at present.

I can reassure you that we will continue to work to offer the best education that we can for every student. We will continue to strive to find solutions and will keep you updated.

Thank you for all your ongoing support at this difficult time, we would like to thank you for your patience and re-iterate that students' learning, safety and welfare remain our key priority.

Yours sincerely,



Ms S Cox
Headteacher