

6th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to my previous communication, I am writing to provide a further update.

Firstly, I want to thank you for your patience at this challenging time. Due to the change of policy by the Department for Education (DfE) on Thursday 31st August, we immediately lost access to our North, South and Tower blocks and the resources inside them. This is a significant amount of space, and we need time to implement our initial plans. We are repurposing any available and appropriate space into teaching spaces. Some of this work can take place quickly and is being completed, but other areas require more work to make the rooms suitable to teach in. We are also putting arrangements in place to offset the loss of over 60 classrooms and PE changing rooms. We continue to work with the Trust and DfE to implement mitigations to offset areas currently closed and await an update on the arrival of temporary classrooms, but have been meeting with a range of suppliers this week. As such, and despite our ongoing work, we do not have enough physical teaching spaces to accommodate all the students at this time. The situation is fast-moving and I will keep you fully updated throughout this process. I appreciate how difficult this is for everyone concerned **but this is a safety issue beyond our control**. We will continue to seek alternatives and mitigations to support all our students to receive face-to-face education, but our initial plans have had to include an element of remote teaching due to the current lack of physical teaching spaces.

We value all our students, but I trust that you can appreciate that in this initial phase we need to prioritise our transition and examination cohorts. However, we aim to support all cohorts in a fair and equitable way. We recognise that not all cohorts have previously experienced our expectations of remote learning and hence, we will ensure that every student has time on site with their teachers next week to establish learning routines, meet their teachers face to face and receive their timetables.

There will 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. 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. Any student arriving after the start of the school day at 8.30am (for example, due to a dentist appointment) will need to use the back gate (off Merton Road) where our Student Services team have been relocated. With our visitor car park repurposed and front reception areas inaccessible, it is not possible to accommodate any visitors to our site at present.

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The week beginning Monday 11th September **Week B** will operate as follows:

Monday 11th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 7 and 10 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 7 should make their way to their form rooms; with Year 10 lining up on the lower playground. • Years 8, 9 11 and Sixth Form will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Tuesday 12th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 7 and 9 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Years 7 should make their way to their form rooms with Year 9 lining up on the lower playground. • Year 8, 10, 11 and Sixth Form will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Wednesday 13th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 8 and 10 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 10 should make their way to the Sports Hall with Year 8 lining up on the lower playground. • Years 7, 9, 11 and Sixth Form will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Thursday 14th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 11 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start, Year 13 should make their way to their form rooms with Year 11 lining up on the lower playground. • Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.
Friday 15th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 11, 12 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start, Sixth Form making their way to their form rooms and Year 11 to the Sport Hall for morning registration. • Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.

Our aim is to ensure as many students as practically possible are engaged in face-to-face learning as quickly as possible, whilst ensuring we adhere to the new guidance from the DfE. We understand remote learning creates challenges at home regarding access to resources. All remote learning will be via Microsoft Teams therefore any internet device can be used such as a tablet or mobile phone but we can also arrange for copies of any work to be printed and sent home should that be required. The format of the learning provision from 18th September will be shared with you next week, when we are clearer on the timescale for arrival of temporary classroom accommodation.

Students qualifying for free school meals will receive vouchers for the weeks they are on remote learning. From Monday 11th September, we will create a space for vulnerable students to attend school when they are due to be on remote learning. We will have limited places available in school at these points for students who fall into the category of vulnerable children or young people or those of parents or carers who are critical workers. The definition of a **critical worker** can be found [in this set of communication](#) from the Department of Education.

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, (including children and young people who have a child in need plan or a child protection plan) and children who are looked-after by the local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance.

We would ask that if you wish to apply for a place in school based on the above criteria, you complete the request form via the link below no later than midday on Friday 8th September.

<https://forms.gle/otdviBv3uLYyHfX7>

As a school, we are very disappointed regarding this late notice of the building closures by the DfE, but 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.

I once again thank you for your patience and understanding at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Cox', written in a cursive style.

Ms S Cox
Headteacher