

21stth August 2020

Dear Families,

We are really looking forward to welcoming back your 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. The Government also state that given this improved position, along with the measures that schools/colleges need to adopt, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children and young people returning to school/college including those that were previously shielding.

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on the 1st August. Even the small number of learners that remain on the list can return. For any learners that remain under the care of specialist health professionals, guidance strongly recommends that you contact your named health professional/consultant to discuss the care of your young person before they return to 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 college straight away so that we can put plans in place for the safe return of your young person. You can alert the college on the email: barry.currell@catcote.co.uk. We will then contact you to discuss any additional measures that your specialist health professional has suggested.

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 young 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 learners 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.

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

Protective measures will be put in place for staff and learners **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.
- Learners will have access to larger outdoor spaces and their use will be staggered.
- Learners will eat in their own class.
- Learners 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 learners, 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 learners this will be very difficult. Where feasible close face to face contact will be avoided and we will minimise the time spent within 1 metre of anyone.

Cleaning:

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

Hand and respiratory hygiene:

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

Curriculum:

- The curriculum for learners 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 regularly.
- If there are learners 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.
- Learners will be greeted by their staff in the 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. Learners who are exempt include those 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. Please provide a face covering if your young person is not exempt and they understand how to handle their face covering safely. If a reusable face covering is used learners they should bring a plastic bag to keep their face covering in while in college. We have included a link on our website on how to wear a covering (COVID-Guidance).
- Any independent travellers that come into college on public transport need to continue to follow guidance e.g. wear face covering whilst on the bus.
- To support good respiratory hygiene, learners are encouraged to have tissues, in case they are need them while on transport.
- If you intend to transport your young person in there will be drop off/visitor bays on the Futures side on the exit road.
- If you have any further queries around transport, please contact the Council's transport department directly on 01429 284382.

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 young or a member of your household, shows any symptoms they must not attend college and must isolate at home in line with Government guidelines (which can be found on our website). Please note that any 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.
- Testing is available for staff and learners that show symptoms through a self-referral system and it is very important that you get your young tested promptly if they show symptoms.
- Learners 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 college. If you need to quarantine please inform the school/college on the admin email (admin@catcote.co.uk)

Kindest Regards



Mrs L. Greig
(Interim CEO)