

6 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all continuing to cope in these challenging times. I wanted to provide a short general update on school provision.

School Provision on 8th May Bank Holiday

As we approach the planned Bank Holiday, the Trust will continue to maintain provision at Carleton High School and De Lacy Primary School. Schools have been contacting parents and carers who are key workers this week to ask whether places are wanted for this coming Friday. Again, we thank you for the responses that we have received as this clearly assists with our staffing plans. If you are a key worker who has not needed to send your child into school but find that your circumstances change and you feel you cannot keep your child at home safely, please contact the School directly and we will ensure provision is made.

Changes to Primary School Provision from Monday 11th May 2020

From Monday 11th May the provision for primary aged children of key workers and those children who may be vulnerable is as follows:

De Lacy Primary School: for pupils of De Lacy and The Rookeries Junior, Infant and Nursery School.

Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School: for pupils of Halfpenny Lane, Carleton Park Junior and Infant School, Larks Hill Junior and Infant School, and Orchard Head Junior, Infant and Nursery School.

Please note that secondary provision remains unchanged.

Laptops for Disadvantaged Pupils

You will be aware that the Government has said that it will provide laptops for disadvantaged year 10 pupils and other vulnerable pupils. The Trust is seeking its allocation following Department for Education guidelines. As yet, we have heard nothing in terms of estimated arrival dates. We were advised initially that laptops would arrive in the UK at the end of May and then would be delivered to Trusts. At that point, there will be some configuring with appropriate software and safeguarding measures before final distribution to pupils. You will understand that government deadlines can shift according to the efficiency of the supply chain. We will keep you all informed and ask that you please do not contact schools in the interim.

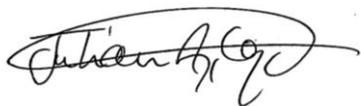
Free School Meals

In my last update, I did speak of the challenges and difficulties that both families and the Trust have experienced in this area. The Trust has encountered issues with the Government e-voucher system consistent with those experienced by schools and trusts across the country. Fortunately, through our perseverance, we have ensured that e-vouchers have been issued to all eligible parents and carers, and a large percentage have been redeemed.

I appreciate that there are regular reports in the national press about the re-opening of schools. We do receive questions from parents and carers about this. The Trust leadership and individual school leaders do not know any more than the general public about timescales. We, as we have from the start of the temporary closures, follow the direction, advice and guidance from the Government. We will continue to do this in the event of schools re-opening.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your understanding, patience and support during this challenging time.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Appleyard', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Julian Appleyard OBE
Chief Executive Officer