



28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are well – I am writing to provide an update on 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 many parents and carers.

Our additional survey and investigative works have continued apace since my last communication and I am delighted to announce that following the additional survey and investigative work by the school and the Trust, I will be in a position to reopen Student Services and the Student Front entrance adjacent to North Block, the Swimming Pool and part of the single storey section of the C Block from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. These are teaching areas where it has been confirmed that there is NO RAAC present. The use of these additional classrooms means that we will be able to increase our onsite capacity slightly for students from next week. Our staff will use the next few days to reassemble these teaching areas ready for students on Monday. For lessons, students will continue to be able to access North Block through the canteen entrance only and the single and double storey C Block area through the yellow door entrances to the rear of the library and near C3 as well as by C9; the ground floor external playground doors will continue to be used in the case of C15 and C16 only.

To resolve reinstating the remaining teaching areas, further intrusive survey work commissioned by the Compass Education Trust of these buildings is still ongoing and should be completed next week. These surveys will involve tower scaffolds and specialist equipment due to the height of our ceilings in some areas of the school 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 students back to school in the coming weeks.

At the same time, in case we discover there are any areas that cannot be released, we are continuing with our RAAC response mitigations, with ground work surveys in preparation for any temporary accommodation, should we find that this is still required in addition to liaison with other local schools should we need to access specialist teaching areas.

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THE APPLETON SCHOOL



Below, I have detailed the updated arrangements for the next week, 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.

The week beginning Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October **Week A** will operate as follows:

<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 7, 9, 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. Year 10 should report to the Sports Hall with Year 9 going to their allocated form base in C block - this will be indicated on Year 9 timetables next week.</li> <li>• <b>Year 7 students attending the teambuilding trip on this day should arrive at the Croft Road Student Entrance by 7.30 am for their scheduled departure.</b></li> <li>• Years 8 and 11 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 7 and Sixth Form should report to their tutor bases and Year 11 should make their way to the Sports Hall with Year 9 going to their allocated form base in C block.</li> <li>• <b>Year 7 students attending the teambuilding trip on this day should arrive at the Croft Road Student Entrance by 7.30 am for their scheduled departure.</b></li> <li>• Years 8 and 10 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 8 and Sixth Form should make their way to their form bases (Year 8 will be allocated in I block and this will show on Year 8 timetables next week) with Year 11 reporting to the Sports Hall and Year 10 to allocated form bases in C Block – this will be indicated on Year 10 timetables next week.</li> <li>• Years 7 and 9 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 8 and Sixth Form should make their way to their form bases (Year 8 will be allocated in I block) with Year 11 reporting to the Sports Hall and Year 10 to allocated form bases in C Block.</li> <li>• Years 7 and 9 will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will attend school for an 8.30am start. Year 7 and Year 9 should make their way to their allocated form rooms for morning registration and Year 11 making their way to the Sports Hall. Year 8 and 10 will line up on the lower playground.</li> <li>• Sixth Form will have live lessons set on Microsoft Teams.</li> </ul>

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 some 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 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 3.00 pm. On days when 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 a change to our student entrances; from 2<sup>nd</sup> October on Croft Road students should use the Student Entrance adjacent to North Block. The back gate will also be available at the start and end of the school day. We also have previously scheduled improvement works commencing on our site from Monday with a new roof for our I Block. This means that our visitor Gate A car park has been now repurposed as the new works entrance and with our 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,

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

Ms S Cox  
Headteacher