

17 February 2021

Dear Parents

I am hoping that we will get the news soon that we will be able to have all students returning into school, although we have had approximately 100 key worker students in school every day, Lees Brook just isn't the same without all our young people within it.

As you will be aware, we are currently planning for September 2021. Can I say a huge thank you to all the parents who completed the questionnaire that was sent out, this has really helped our planning for September. On the assumption that by September there will be an easing of the current restrictions, the new school day will be a mix of the way that we used to operate with some 'COVID keeps' which are changes that have had a positive impact overall on the school and that we want to continue going forward. We are still working through this but hopefully within the next couple of weeks, I will be able to send you out our proposed plans. I will send out information as quickly as possible so you will have as much notice as possible to make any necessary arrangements.

As you may be aware, on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February, we transferred to the Archway Learning Trust, along with The Long Eaton School and Merrill Academy. Archway Learning Trust, previously Bluecoat Academies Trust, was formed in April 2014 as a result of the very long and successful history of Bluecoat Academy. The Trust already comprises of Bluecoat Aspley Academy, Bluecoat Sixth Form, Bluecoat Wollaton Academy, Bluecoat Beechdale Academy, Bluecoat Primary Academy, The Nottingham Emmanuel School and Sixth Form and the Bluecoat SCITT Alliance (School Centred Initial Teacher Training). The Trust has a really strong school improvement team who are already supporting within school and helping us to continue to develop and improve.

There will be some changes in school related to working with the new Trust and our continued drive for school improvement. From September 2021, we will be moving to a 3 year KS4 curriculum. Our students already make choices in Year 8 regarding subject areas they want to focus on in Year 9, however starting GCSE skills in Year 9 gives our students even more time to develop the skills and knowledge they need for their GCSE examinations. This is in place in the other schools within the Archway Trust and has had a very positive impact on outcomes overall. More information will be sent out to parents regarding this next week.

From September 2021, we will also be transferring from ClassCharts to Go 4 Schools. Go 4 Schools is a system that brings together information on behaviour, rewards, attendance and homework, as ClassCharts does, but in addition to this it also gives parents more immediate information about academic performance, for example it will have recent assessment grades, academic progress updates and end of year reports.

As I stated at the start of this letter, I am hopeful that we will soon get more information about the return to school for all of our students, I will continue to update you on any plans and will also consult with you on the finalised plans regarding the proposed school day for September 2021.

As always, a huge thank you for your continued support to us as a school and for the work you are doing with your youngsters at home to support their remote learning.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe House". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Z'.

Zoe House  
Headteacher