

19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Letter from the Headteacher regarding remote learning from 23 March**

As you will now be aware, the Government has taken the decision to close all schools in England until further notice as part of the strategy to combat the COVID19 virus. From Monday only those children of key workers or those identified as vulnerable will be able to attend school.

As a school, we are committed to providing an excellent education for all of our students even when closed and as a result we have put together learning opportunities for **all** to be completed at home via Google Classroom and more information regarding this is below.

We are also aware that students in Year 11 and 13 have been affected by the announcement regarding examinations. This morning I met with both year groups to reassure them that we will do all we can to support them. We are expecting more information on this tomorrow and as soon as we know the plans of the Government for awarding these qualifications we will inform you of our next steps. My advice to them, and to you as parents, is to continue learning until you are told otherwise. This includes revision and the work set on Google Classroom. They have spent 5 or 7 years studying for these qualifications and whilst the examinations may not go ahead, the learning they have done will stay with them for life and we are incredibly proud of them.

### **Learning Platform for School Closure**

From Monday 23 March until further notice work will be set for students using Google Classroom

We have checked with students that they have access to the internet at home but if there are issues please contact the school office ([office@maidenerleghschool.co.uk](mailto:office@maidenerleghschool.co.uk)).

Students should be familiar with using Google Classroom and so this is where materials will be made available. Please find a list of subject Google Classroom codes [here](#) broken down by subject and year group. Alternatively, students may have been provided with individual class codes by their class teacher and if this is the case and they are unsure of the code please email the school office for the attention of the teacher whose class code is required.

Teaching staff will be working from home using remote access to provide these resources wherever possible. Please be mindful that this will be dependent upon their own personal circumstances and health.

Some of your child's teachers may choose to deliver online lessons via video or audio conference. They will do this using an app called Zoom which can be used on a phone, tablet, laptop or PC. In this case teachers will invite students to the lesson at a designated time by giving them a joining URL which will be posted on Google Classroom. You might like to download the app so that you can see how it works. Please note that there is not a requirement for teachers to do this and it should not be an expectation of students or parents.

### **During the school closure, students are expected to:**

- Be available during the hours of the normal school day to respond to email and other alerts used by school.
- Check Google Classroom on a daily basis for information on work that has been set and for information on any scheduled video conference lessons.
- Complete any class/homework set on Google Classroom by the deadline stated and using the specified method of submission.
- As far as possible attend lessons that are delivered remotely by Google Classroom stream or video/audio conference.
- Have their books/folders and pencil cases to hand during lessons that are delivered remotely by Google Classroom stream or by video conference.

### **In a video/audio conference lesson:**

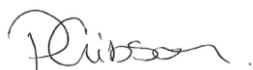
- Students do not have to use the video function if they don't want to. For the majority of lessons, the teacher will set up the lesson so that video is not able to be used.
- If your child does use the video function the room should be well lit with nothing in the background. Alternatively, they can choose a virtual background from the app.
- Other members of the household must not be involved in video-conferencing in any way.
- Students do not need to wear uniform but they should be suitably dressed.
- Recording or taking screen-shots of anyone during a virtual lesson is strictly prohibited and will be treated using our normal behaviour policies.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in the same way that they would in school.
- Students behaving inappropriately will be removed from the lesson and their parents informed.

As you can imagine this is a very challenging situation for all involved. We are committed to providing all of our students with a continuing education under testing circumstances and we hope that having the facility to interact with their teacher will be beneficial and will help make the home learning experience more varied and interesting for students.

We have, in addition, made a school education continuity policy available for you which can be found [here](#).

If you do NOT want your children to be included in lessons delivered by audio/video conference please tell your child and let the school office know.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson  
Headteacher