



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Update Regarding Further Department for Education Guidance

As you know, the country has today started a 2nd national lockdown and as a school we have been waiting for how this new position affects schools. Following an update from the Department for Education last night, I wanted to write to you to inform you of the main points of this guidance to ensure, as parents, you are fully informed.

Whilst the update from the DfE does not bring about any major changes, we have reviewed our practices to ensure we are doing all that we can to keep our community safe.

One of the biggest changes for many, and which has been publicised in the national press, is the requirement for students and staff to wear face coverings. This is something the school has in place already and students and staff will continue to be expected to wear face coverings in all areas except classrooms.

From Monday 9 November we are requesting that all students bring hand sanitiser with them to school. This will allow students to sanitise their hands at the start and end of each lesson. We will also continue to routinely check that hand sanitising stations around the school are filled with sanitiser and we will continue to be vigilant with cleaning surfaces such as door handles.

Please can I also ask for your support in asking your child not to attend the local shops at the start and the end of the day unless buying essential items. Students will also need to ensure that they disperse quickly once they have left the school site. Once students leave the school site they must ensure they follow the new laws surrounding the lockdown.

Parents of students who are classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable should speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Students who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school. Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.

Students who are clinically vulnerable or have underlying health conditions but are not clinically extremely vulnerable, may continue to attend school.

Meetings in person are now capped to a maximum of three people and so where staff would like to speak with you about your child, some may be carried out virtually via Zoom to ensure that we keep our community as safe as possible. Some meetings, however, are exempt from this rule to ensure that they are effective for your child and when this happens there will be robust social distancing protocols in place.

We have reviewed our after-school provision and from now, until further notice, all extracurricular activities will be suspended with the exception of any activities relating to learning. In addition, detentions will continue to be held. Trips also remain suspended until we believe it is safe to resume these.

For those students in examination years, the Department for Education has also reclarified their intention for examinations to go ahead in the summer with a 3 week delay. We will continue to support these year groups to ensure they are ready for these.

Finally, we are reviewing our systems such as one-way routes to ensure we keep our site as safe as possible. Students will be updated on these routes next week.

I understand that the current situation is alarming for everyone but I want to reassure you that as a school we are doing all we possibly can to keep our students safe, happy and learning. As always, if you would like to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me. The next 30 days will be difficult, but by working together we can ensure that your children get the best from #TeamMaidenErlegh.

Thank you again for your continued support and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Gibson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr P Gibson
Headteacher