



13 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Collapse of Year 11 Bubble

Firstly, I am incredibly sorry to have to take this drastic action, I understand the importance of Year 11 and therefore this decision has not been taken lightly.

Since Sunday, we have been notified of 5 cases in Year 11 and as a result we are expecting that over 200 students will need to isolate until approximately next Friday, 20 November. We want to stop any potential outbreak in Year 11 and, crucially, ensure students continue to have an education that is befitting of Maiden Erlegh. With so few students in school, the mixed economy is not as effective as an 'all online' or all 'in person' model and as a result we will now move to our tier 2 learning process which can be found on our website. Students will be learning from home with the vast majority of lessons being live to ensure their progress is unhindered. We have been hit hard this week by positive cases and as a result of both these, and outside of school cases, we also have 15 teachers isolating (which is a reduction from a number of 20 on Tuesday) and should these staff members remain well they will continue to deliver live lessons from home.

We will be continuing to trace contacts of cases today to ensure that we can inform you of any potential contact with known cases.

The Year 11 students now fall into two categories and we need to ensure that you understand the difference:

- Students who have or will be tracked as being on contact with a positive case will be later sent a letter from us, which asks them to isolate. They need to follow the guidelines of this letter, remain in their homes and not go out.
- Students who have not been asked to isolate and are only at home, as a result of the Year 11 bubble being collapsed, can still take daily exercise and move around outside of the home, within the government guidelines laid out for the current Lockdown.

Any student who falls into Point 2 is able to attend our 'Pop Up' provision, if they fall into one of the categories below.

Children of parents who work in:

- Health and Social Care
- Education and Childcare
- The Justice System
- Those required in the COVID response
- The production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery of food and essential goods
- Public Safety and National Security
- Transport
- Utilities

In addition, children deemed as vulnerable under the definitions below are also able to attend:

- Are assessed as being in need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- Have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - Children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
 - Adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - Those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
 - Those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - Others at the provider and local authority's discretion

Should your child meet the above conditions please contact Miss Nimmo to gain a place in the 'Pop Up' school.

Finally, I want to wish all those who have tested positive a very speedy recovery on behalf of everyone here at Maiden Erlegh.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher