



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

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Update regarding the start of term January 2021

Dear parents and students

As promised, I wanted to write and provide you with more information about next week and beyond so you are clear on what is happening at Maiden Erlegh School next term. Contained within this letter is information about our 'pop up' provision, remote learning and testing alongside other key points so please do take the time to read it all so you are fully informed and can take action where needed.

Pop Up Provision

Next week, the school will be open for face to face provision for children of critical workers and those students who are classed as vulnerable. The definition of this can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We will be offering a 'pop up' school for students in the above categories for:

- Monday 4th January – Friday 8th January (All year groups including 6th form)
- Monday 11th January – Friday 15th January (Year 7-10 & 12 only)

The 'Pop Up' School will be based on the normal Maiden Erlegh School (Silverdale Road) site. There will be a large board by reception with the allocated rooms on the first day, to inform students of where to go. Students will be based within a computer room, they will access Google Meet and Google Classroom to complete the work set or access live lessons. Students will not be doing practical PE lessons and therefore will be required to wear their normal school uniform. Students will follow a normal school day (including their staggered starts and finishes).

They need to bring in their books, equipment and some headphones (these will not be provided in school). We would ask for your support in providing a snack for your child for break time, packed lunch and a water bottle (unless they are Free School Meals, in which case lunch will be provided as normal).

If you need to use this facility, your child falls into one of the categories defined in the link above and your child has not been advised to isolate, then please email:

s.bendall@maidenerleghtrust.org. You need to email us before 5pm on Saturday 2nd January so we can ensure we have enough staff and rooms set up for the Monday. Please do not send your child into school, without booking a place.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to a free school meal and you would like this provision while remote learning takes place from home, please would you contact the school office to request this before 8am on Monday 4th January 2021. We can then ensure that a food parcel is ready for collection from reception on this day. We will make contact with you to advise of a collection time.

Loan Devices

On a separate point, if your child does not have an electronic device with which they can connect to live lessons from home, please do let us know. We will then try to ensure that a loan device is prepared and ready for collection from Monday 4th January 2021, although we have a limited supply available.

Guidance for students for remote learning for week beginning 4th January:

Following the Secretary of State's announcement yesterday, there was confusion about what schools were required to provide remotely next week and to clarify, we will be offering remote learning for all year groups and full information is provided below.

Lesson Timings

8.40 am Tutor Register with your tutor by joining google meets with your tutor group. This will help keep you organised for the rest of the day and maintain the regular contact with your tutor. It is also a good time to ask any questions.

Monday – Thursday

8.55 am Lesson 1
10.00 am Lesson 2
11.15 am Lesson 3
12.15 Lunch Break
12.50 Lesson 4
1.55 pm Lesson 5

Friday

9.25am Lesson 1
10.40 Lesson 2
11.40 Lunch Break
12.15 Lesson 3
1.20 Lesson 4

All classes in all year groups will take lunch on snack break 1 timings.

All lessons will be set on google classroom each day. These will either be live video lessons, or work which has been set by your teacher. **Please note – in some instances staff will be unable to provide live learning for a variety of reasons such as illness. Therefore there will be some that are not live but work will be set.**

Live lessons are only delivered Google Meet or Zoom. If there is no note on google classroom join the Meet at your lesson time. Where zoom is being used, the code will be posted on your classroom page.

Please remember that your teachers are moving between lessons and navigating different online classrooms. It may be that it takes up to 5 mins before they start the live lesson for you.

We recommend that you have both your mic and video on, so that your teacher can see and hear you.

On both systems there is a chat facility so that you can ask questions. Your teacher will endeavour to answer your questions in the lesson, however if this doesn't happen, please email mesoffice@maidnerleghtrust.org and we will forward your questions to your teachers to respond to. In most scenarios these will be answered in the next lesson.

Work Set will either be there by your timetabled lesson time, or you will find a note alerting you that work will be set by a time that day.

Work completed at home should be completed in your exercise books where you have these at home. If you don't have these available, please use lined paper which can be glued into your exercise book on your return to school. Please remember to keep all of your work together, this forms part of your curriculum.

Should you have any queries during this period, these should be forwarded to mesoffice@maidnerleghtrust.org

Testing

As you may know, the Government is asking schools to roll out mass testing as early as possible followed by a phase of testing positive case contacts. As a school and Trust we support this initiative in the fight against COVID19 and to start this process we will need to test just under 5000 people (each student needs to test twice 3-5 days apart) in two weeks. I need to be honest with you and highlight that this is a significant undertaking from both a logistical and resource point of view and we will do our very best to ensure this happens in the timeframe. However, I am asking for your patience and support should things not quite go to plan within the timescales we are aiming for. In the first instance we will look to complete two tests for Year 11 and 13 on Wednesday and Thursday next week and then again on the Saturday and Sunday. The following week, we will aim to test other year groups, again using the Saturday and Sunday as part of the roll out. We have set up our testing centre and I am working on the staffing and logistics today with a view to completing these on Monday. We aim to send timings out by Tuesday for the first two year groups.

In preparation for this, I have created an electronic consent form. For students aged 16 and over, they will be required to sign a hard copy on arrival as they do not require parental consent. It is important that you fully read the information at the top of the consent form alongside the information provided below:

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. In the first few weeks students will be sent home following their test and **positive cases will be notified by telephone.**

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home and these will be dropped off following a positive case or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

Information on how to do the test can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How to do your test COVID 19 instruction leaflet for schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How_to_do_your_test_COVID_19_instruction_leaflet_for_schools.pdf)

To give consent:

Please click on the link below and read sections 1 & 2 which includes further information about consent and the Maiden Erlegh Trust privacy notice. Section 3 requires you to give consent by filling in the form. Please note, as this email is going to legal parents and guardians, the completion of this form will be treated as consent to conduct the test.

The form and information can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHxZ4qmm1ejyA1QcSynH0YH0nsqNeK0eUJ44qdWBUr2Md4pA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Update on confirmed cases

After my notification on Sunday 20th December, we have had several cases confirmed and, as promised, I want to share these with you. Over the course of the Christmas break I have been notified of the following cases:

1 in Year 7

1 in Year 8

1 in Year 9

2 in Year 10

1 in year 13

7 staff members

We hope that all members of our community affected by COVID19 make a swift recovery.

And finally...

I apologise for the length of this email but I want you to enter 2021 hat as a school we are on top of everything being thrown at us and you are clear about the plan for next week and beyond. Of course, things may change but, as always, if they do I will communicate this to you as soon as possible.

I wish to end this final letter of 2020 by saying thank you for all of your support. 2020 has been a year like no other with some highs but a significant amount of lows. I truly hope 2021 is much better for our community, the nation and the world and I look forward to working with you to ensure our students get the very best from #TeamMaidenErlegh.

Best wishes

Paul Gibson

Headteacher

#TeamMaidenErlegh

