



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been a week or so since I have written to you so I felt it prudent to update you on the current situation at Maiden Erlegh School. I will put these under headings below to make it easier for you.

Return date for students

We all long for the day when normality can return and one of the first steps on that journey will be students coming back through our gates. We cannot wait for this to happen, but despite all of the circulation in the press of potential dates, we have now had confirmation that this will not be directly after half term. The Prime Minister outlined on 27 January that there are certain criteria that need to be met before opening schools, predominantly surrounding the vaccination of groups 1-4. If this is done by 15 February, the Prime Minister has suggested that schools could reopen on Monday 8 March. We know that there is a lot that needs to happen before this will occur but we will be ready if this is when the school does indeed open. We are also ready to continue to support our students and yourselves remotely if this date is not achieved for opening schools.

Please be reassured that we are working on plans for a return including the curriculum sequencing, resetting expectations and, very importantly, supporting the mental wellbeing of the children. We will be ready to welcome them back, whenever that is, and cannot wait to bring #TeamMaidenErlegh together when it is safe to so.

Year 11 and 13 (plus Year 10 RP)

Mr Attridge has written to you confirming the arrangements for data collection points (DCPs) and internal examinations. As you know, we had postponed some of these to allow time for the OfQUAL consultation to be completed and based on the information given we are now in a position to confirm the following:

- Year 11 DCPs home: W/B 8 March
- Year 13 DCPs home: W/B 8 March
- Year 11 PPEs(including a Year 10 RP PPE): W/B 22 March for 2 weeks
- Year 13 Prelims: W/B 15 March for one week

We will provide more information about the layout of these exams in due course as this will depend on the return to school date. Students should begin looking towards these and revising content that has been covered to ensure they are prepared to sit these.

Lateral Flow Testing

Staff and students with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the [stay-at-home guidance](#). Staff and students with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school and use protective measures.

In addition, the initial aim was to carry our daily lateral flow testing for any contact of a positive case. This has now been paused and the contacts of confirmed COVID cases will be required to isolate for the 10 days post contact.

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines.

Press Pause Day

I am incredibly proud of what the school community has achieved over the past few months and the amount of work carried out by students and staff (and of course parents!) has been nothing short of remarkable. I am aware, however, that the pace of remote learning is one which is demanding of everyone and so on Friday 12 February I will be initiating a Press Pause Day, this is to support students carrying out some of their subject administration and catch up that would normally be addressed in school. Students will be expected to attend their online tutor and pastoral session which will ensure that they are up and ready to learn. Following this session, there will be no further live lessons for the day and students will be expected to carry out tasks such as:

- Organising their work that has been completed over the half term. E.g. organising and sticking in worksheets which have been printed, and organising their electronic folders so that they can easily find work when they return to school. (Please note that there is no requirement to print work, but we appreciate that some students have done this)
- Completing any outstanding work/ homework.
- Consolidating notes from this half term, using the resources available in google classroom.
- Revising topics that have been covered in preparation for upcoming PPEs/Prelims and assessments.
- Preparing for at least two more weeks of remote learning after half term.

The aim is to ensure students are ready for next half term which will begin remotely and to allow them to have a break over half term from school work.

CPD Day

On Wednesday, the entire Maiden Erlegh Trust staff body attended their second annual conference. The sessions organised were absolutely superb with a golden thread of diversity and inclusivity running throughout. Many of the sessions were very thought provoking and, from the feedback I have seen so far, I am certain the learning of the day will have a positive impact on the education of our students. I would like to publicly thank my colleagues who lead on some of the sessions.

Pop Up Provision and Tracing

Unlike the last lockdown, the school is not required to open or offer provision over the February half term. Therefore, the school site will be shut to the children of key workers and vulnerable students. Tracing will continue should we be notified of any positive cases but this will only be the case if a positive case is found in the Pop Up provision. I will continue to give you information on cases in my weekly update.

Weekly video updates

Having received incredibly positive feedback on these, the videos will continue to be shared on a Friday with you for the duration of the pandemic. In addition, we will attach the PowerPoint without my voice for you to read if this is your preferred method of keeping up to date.

Feedback

I continue to be overwhelmed by the positive messages we are receiving by parents, students and the local community. The staff and students are working tirelessly and we really do appreciate your support. Teachers and support staff are continuing to fine tune and adapt their practice and we have set up a staff CPD Google Classroom where hints and tips are shared. This support for each other is allowing them all to improve even further and I am incredibly proud of the resilience they are showing currently and the response by the students is fantastic. Our attendance in live lessons is broadly in line with in school attendance.

Finally, please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P Gibson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Mr P Gibson
Headteacher

