



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

End of Term Letter

Wow! What an academic year this has been... Coming from Blackpool, it would seem appropriate to refer to the roller coaster ride that has been 20/21. It seems so long ago that I was writing to you about plans for September 2020 and welcoming the students back following the first lockdown. However, out of all the darkness this year has brought there have been some exceptional highlights and I am incredibly proud of the entire #TeamMaidenErlegh.

We have zoomed, loomed and used many other platforms to ensure our students get the best education possible. It has been a journey that none of us wants to repeat but one that we have learned so much from. The compassion, support, friendships and determination our young people have shown is to be commended, and in the final assembly I have asked them to give themselves a round of applause because I am so proud of them, as I hope you are too. I wrote a while back about the unfair terminology being used to describe these young people and I want to emphasise this again – they are NOT the lost generation, they are a collective group of young people who are, quite simply, AMAZING! Resilience is a trait that cannot always be taught but this generation have developed this and are showing it every day. I personally salute each and every one of them.

This year has been full of some incredible highlights. We have managed to hold virtual open evenings, virtual careers days and STEAM days. Our Foundation students took part in the ultimate school trip where they were able to experience the sites and cultures of Japan, Italy and Iceland, and our Year 10 students took part in an online Shakespeare's Globe workshop. Across the school many of our students took part in a huge number of house challenges and our onsite Sports Day. Students signed up to the Maiden Erlegh Independent Project and are now working hard to produce their project on areas such as fast fashion, political systems and mythical dragons. Many incredible things have been going on behind the scenes for the whole academic year, despite all the challenges schools have faced, and I couldn't be any prouder and hope students enjoy a well-deserved break. I could go on and on and on about the successes, achievements and events this year but I don't have enough space – I will instead reiterate #TEAMMAIDENERLEGH you are immense and together we are strong!

However, we must look to the future and September will be very different again following the announcement that was made a few weeks ago. I will update you if anything changes over the summer break, but as things stand, the below will be the expectation when students return on Friday 3 September.

Goodbyes

As always, we have to say goodbye to some colleagues at Maiden Erlegh who are moving on to pastures new. I am sure you will join me in saying a huge thank you for all the work they have done with our students. We wish them the very best of luck!

Ms Hine – Network Manager
Mrs Dray – Food Teacher
Mrs Burbage – Music Teacher

Mrs Hughes – IT Support
Mrs Bourne – 2nd in Geography
Mr Abery – TA
Mrs Moon – Head of Law and Psychology
Mrs Jardim – Computing Teacher
Miss Bruna – Spanish Teacher
Miss Hawkins – TA
Mr Wraight – TA
Mr Brackstone – Maths Teacher
Miss Warner – Drama Teacher

Once again thank you and good luck!

I will formally write to you and introduce our new staff joining us in the new academic year and I can confirm that we are once again fully staffed with subject specialists (no easy task in the current climate!).

September

Face coverings

Face coverings will become optional unless otherwise directed by the government. Students and staff will have the option to wear these coverings at all points during the school day.

Year group bubbles

Year group bubbles will no longer exist. Students will move to the next classroom where the staff member will be waiting for them. In my opinion, this will not increase the risk as students already move for specialist subjects such as Science and PE. This includes the dining area where the Perspex screens will be removed to allow students to converse more easily. The sixth form study and common room will become accessible for Year 12 and 13.

Contact tracing and isolation

The NHS Test and Trace will take up tracing for positive cases in schools from 19 July. We are awaiting further guidance on this but please be reassured that I will be supporting this wherever possible to keep our community safe. We are also aware that isolation rules are changing from September and can end following a negative PCR test. We will provide more guidance on this in due course.

Testing

Students should continue to test over the summer holidays twice a week and this is expected to continue into the autumn term. Before coming back to school, students will be tested at our relaunched asymptomatic testing centre and a further test will be carried out 3-5 days later. Further information about September testing is further down in this letter.

Uniform

Students should come to school each day in their full school uniform. From September, PE changing rooms will be reopened and so students should not come to school in their PE kit under any circumstances. Further information is provided below on our expectations.

Staggered start and finish times

The staggered start and finish times will no longer be in place and students should be ready, in their tutor rooms, each morning at 8.40am. Students will be dismissed at 2.55 Mon-Thurs and at 2.20 on a Friday.

Risk assessments

We will continue to risk assess the situation and make changes where we feel it is needed to protect the health and wellbeing of our community.

One-way systems

We will be reverting back to the one-way systems that were in place before COVID to ensure students can move around the buildings and school site safely.

CEV students

The Government expects all CEV students to attend school as normal, however if you feel your child is CEV (information on CEV can be found here: [CEV](#)) and you would like an updated risk assessment, please contact the school.

Attendance

Attendance for all students at school is now mandatory unless there is a valid reason which should be submitted to our attendance team via email.

Systems of control

The Government have announced that the following four measures should still be in place in schools:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We are asking that all students continue to bring in hand sanitiser and use it at regular intervals. We will continue to have sanitising stations around the school and the number of these will be increased in time for the students' return in September. We have employed an additional cleaner who will clean regularly touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails etc. Staff will also be asked to keep doors and windows open wherever possible to ensure good ventilation is maintained.

Logistics for September

Please find information about how and when students will return in September.

Testing

A letter will be sent out later this week confirming the timings for students to come to school and be tested. Please remember that we must have consent to carry out the tests in school. The testing days will be:

Tuesday 31st August

Wednesday 1st September – Sunday 5th September

Thank you in advance to the testing team who are volunteering to support this important initiative.

First Day – Friday 3 September

As always, we would like to get our new students settled into school before the other students join us. This is even more important this year as the new Year 7 and external Year 12 students have not seen the school on a normal day. I would like to thank you in advance

for your support on this matter. The arrival times and where students should make their way to is outlined below:

Year Group	Arrival Time	Meeting Place
7	8.30am for 8.40am start	Main Hall (Welcome Assembly)
8	10.00am	Tutor Rooms (N Block)
9	10.00am	Tutor Rooms (L Block)
10	10.00am	Tutor Rooms (C & S Block)
11	10.00am	Main Hall (Assembly)
12	8.25am – External Students (who previously didn't attend the school)	Sixth Form Centre
12	9.25am – Internal Students (who previous did attend the school)	Main Hall (Assembly)
13	10.00am (this will be post testing earlier in the morning)	Large Dining Room (Assembly)
Violet College	9.00am	Violet College
Indigo Resource Base	8.30am for 8.40am start	Indigo Resource Base

For our new Year 7 and 12 students, staff will be at the front of school to help and direct you if you need help. They will be wearing blue Maiden Erlegh Staff lanyards.

Resets for September

One of the big areas for our School Improvement Plan next year is a reset on our expectations. This year, with all of its turbulence, has allowed us to reflect on the small things that make this school great. We have packaged these up and created 'The Maiden Erlegh Way' which are a set of expectations and routines which will allow students to learn in a purposeful environment and make the most of their time with us. The bullet points are below:

- Students should wear the correct school uniform.
- Students should arrive to school and all lessons on time.
- All students should have the correct equipment in a transparent pencil case and have this on their desk at the start of each lesson along with their diary.
- All students should stand behind their chairs until asked to sit down by the teacher.
- Students will follow staff instructions at all times and will not show defiance.
- Students should use Brain, Book, Buddy, Boss.
- The presentation of books must follow the school expectations – titles underlined, date, HW/CW highlighted, DIRT in different colour and books should remain neat and tidy.
- Students will remain on task, will not disrupt the learning of others and allow everyone to SUCCEED.
- Students should behave in a manner that is safe and respectful to others.

- Students will be respectful of our local community when leaving at the end of the day.

We will continue to use a blended model of online and in book teaching but most work will be available for you to see in books from September.

School Uniform

In September, we will return to 'business as usual' and students will be required to wear full school uniform every day. Students will change into their PE kit at the start of their practical PE lessons as normal. Full school uniform should be accompanied by black polishable shoes, with no logos, unless the student has a formal medical condition, with evidence supplied to their Head of Year (in advance). In addition to their uniform, we will continue to uphold the high standards we expect in terms of person appearance.

Equipment for Learning (Y7-11)

All students are expected to have their own equipment for learning. All students are expected to have the equipment listed below contained within a transparent pencil case. This pencil case allows tutors to check the equipment of students quickly and easily. We appreciate that students may not be able to fit a scientific calculator and maths set in their transparent pencil cases and so we are happy for these to be carried separately in their school bags.

- Pens – black/blue, green and red
- Writing pencils
- Coloured pencils
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Glue stick
- 30cm ruler
- Maths set (containing protractor, compass, set square)
- Scientific calculator – we recommend a Casio calculator - FX-83GTX or FX-85GTX, however most scientific calculators are fine.
- At least 2 highlighters
- Transparent pencil case

We recognise that some families may at this time be experiencing financial hardship, if this is the case or you are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, then please contact the relevant Head of Year, if you require additional support.

A few points for the summer...

Bridge Jumping & Water Safety

Please can you talk with your child about the dangers of Bridge Jumping. We are hearing of an increased number of students from both this school and others taking part in this activity which is incredibly dangerous and we would like to encourage them to spend their summer taking part in activities which are much safer.

For more info on water safety, please see the following video:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/57902315>

Relax

It has been a stressful year for everyone in this country and I am sure our students could do with a period of calmness. Please can I ask you to encourage them to spend time away from social media and their phones to do something different. I really do believe this will have a positive impact on their wellbeing.

Good luck to Year 10, 11 and 13

I am sure you will join me in wishing the Year 10, 11 and 13 students the best of luck when they collect their results in August. They have worked tirelessly in very unknown circumstances and we hope they get the grades they need for their next steps.

Times are changing...

And finally, I am under no illusion that guidance will be changing regularly over the summer break. As always, I will update you when I hear information that has an impact on us.

Have a great summer break.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher