



17 March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

### Update on COVID-19

As you will all be aware, the Government has issued revised guidance in relation to the COVID-19 virus and its management nationally. These changes, along with how we are able to support them within Maiden Erlegh Trust, are outline below:

- If any person (pupil/student or parent) becomes unwell with the associated symptoms of either high temperature, and/or a new and persistent cough, the entire household should self-isolate for 14 days
- Any pupil/student who has an underlying medical condition\* should consider self-isolating for a period of 12 weeks

*\*the full list of underlying medical conditions can be found here:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

As you know, the advice from Public Health England (PHE) and Department for Education (DfE) continues to be updated on a daily basis and it is therefore very difficult to predict what might happen over the coming days and weeks, but rest assured we will keep you as updated as much as possible.

The Trust are regularly reviewing our action planning with our schools, and whilst we want to preserve our pupils' and students' education, the safety of the young people and staff is paramount.

We will continue to insist on the extended hygiene regimes at all our schools, as illustrated in previous communications.

### Further advice for parents

The advice offered to all remains that if any member of your household become unwell with the associated symptoms, you should continue with the advice of:

- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.
- You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Public Health England have confirmed they will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms. If, however the symptoms develop or continue for longer than the expected duration, then you are asked to call NHS 111 for further advice.

For schools, this means if your child has symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, they must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days from when their symptoms started, as well as any other siblings and family members in the household.

Pupils/students who arrive at school but are visibly unwell with these symptoms, will be sent home along with any siblings. They will be asked to stay away for 14 days in accordance with the guidance issued. We would also ask parents who are exhibiting the above symptoms to refrain from coming into school for the same timeframe.

We expect this amended guidance to mean significant staff absence. We have robust plans in place to ensure classes are covered and we are able to provide the pupils/students with a safe environment and effective teaching and learning opportunities. With high staff absence, however, this will not always be easy and we may have to do things differently, including in extreme circumstances, partially for fully closing schools.

The school will remain open unless we are instructed to close by either PHE or the DfE. If we were to close, we have drawn up plans to provide work for children via our on-line platforms and/or through the school website. Each school will inform parents separately about how to access work during any school closure.

I know many parents and pupils/students are very concerned about the impact the current situation may have on SATs and public exams due to be taken in May/June. While my immediate focus is the health and safety of children and their families, clearly the longer-term impact on their education is a concern too. Like all schools, we are waiting for guidance from PHE, the DfE and/or the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). We will continue to send updates as and when we receive them, and staff will do their very best to ensure that pupils/students are prepared for those assessments.

All of the action we are taking or planning is designed to keep your children, our staff and the wider community as safe as possible, particularly those who are most vulnerable to the coronavirus. I will write again with a further update once more information is available. We will use email/SMS to communicate with you during any closure.

The full advice can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

On behalf of our schools, I should like to thank you for your on-going support and understanding during this unprecedented period. We will continue to prioritise the health and welfare of our young people and our staff whilst being mindful of our responsibility to maintaining education provision as best as we can.

Yours sincerely



Miss M Davies  
Chief Executive Officer