

3 April 2020

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of a very strange term!

The unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 emergency has forced all of us to operate in new ways and live very different rhythms of life. We have now been fully closed for two weeks and I think it is true to say that all of us are still learning how best to operate as an on-line school. Thank you for your patience and encouragement in all this. Please do get in-touch if you have any further ideas or feedback to help us as we develop our very different provision. Please click on the special COVID section of the website for further information and support:

[Maiden Erlegh School in Reading - COVID-19](#)

Year 11 and qualifications

On Friday 20 March we were able to put together a special farewell event for our year 11. Mr Bandy, Head of Year, led an excellent assembly full of pictures, memories and reflections and we also made time for the obligatory shirt signing. Every member of staff in school on that day also supported the farewell, and some who weren't able to be in (due to self-isolation) even delivered a video message! We wish our year 11 all the best for the future.

Guidance from Ofqual and the DfE about the awarding of qualifications this year has just been announced. The guidance document for parents and students can be found here:

[Summer 2020 grades for GCSE](#)

The school and Trust now need to consider the implications and necessary actions that we need to take and we will communicate these with you after the Easter break. For Year 11 students and their parents I know this is an incredibly anxious time but please bear with us as we work through the process. Please can I point out to students and parents the following instruction from Ofqual:

"Centres must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of teachers' judgements, and to avoid teachers, heads of department, senior leaders or Heads of Centre being put under pressure by students and parents, to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Since the final grades for some or all students in a centre could be different from those submitted, it also helps to manage students' expectations."

Therefore, I kindly request that you do not contact the school nor teachers regarding grading and we thank you for your understanding and support for this process. We care deeply about every single one of our students but we must follow statutory guidance and maintain the integrity of assessment.

On-line schooling

After Easter we will recommence our virtual schooling and it looks likely that school closure will continue for a number of weeks into the summer term. I am in awe of the staff team who have been working collaboratively and creatively over the last two weeks to try to ensure that virtual teaching is engaging and effective. Going forward, I have asked curriculum leaders and their teams to continue to think through how we best introduce new units of work and find effective ways to give feedback on the work being completed. I have also encouraged staff to consider strategies and approaches to ensure that learning activities are varied. Some staff have been experimenting with video conferencing, live and recorded lessons, others have been looking to use a wide range of media and existing resources to create interesting experiences and we will continue to experiment!

We communicated earlier in the week that we will need your help to guide and supervise your children to ensure that work is being completed. Notification of work that has been set is sent out through the ClassCharts App and will link to the work itself on Google Classroom. If you have problems with Google Classroom please contact the school office and we will get you the help you need. If you have particular concerns about your child and their engagement with work, please get in touch with their tutor or Head of Year via the office MERoffice@maidenerleghschool.co.uk.

Maiden Erlegh Trust “pop-up school”

As you are aware, we are operating a school provision for a limited number of children hosted at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. These are:

- Children of keyworkers who cannot be safely cared for at home
- Children with an EHCP who cannot be safely cared for at home
- Children with a social worker

This is an important contribution to the community and we are pleased to be able to offer this. The pop-up school will morph into a holiday club over the Easter break (run by an external company) and will recommence on Monday 20th April. If you have not accessed a school place, but believe that your child is now eligible for one, please contact the school office.

Goggles for the NHS

We were very pleased to be able to do our bit in trying to address the PPE shortages in the NHS. We were able to clean and distribute dozens of goggles from the Science department to some of our local surgeries, community nursing teams and a local hospice. Thanks to Mr James, Curriculum leader for Science, for his help in sorting out the goggles.

Please stay safe and well. I wish you well over the Easter break – even if you perhaps aren't able to do what you might normally do. We would urge you to continue to follow government advice and to stay inside.

On-line schooling begins again on Monday 20th April.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher