



20 April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students

I wanted to welcome you all 'back' to learning – whether remotely or in school. I hope you have had a restful break, and that you and your families are safe and well and have managed to enjoy the good weather (social distancing respected obviously).

Trust staff are continuing to work very hard for the pupils and students in these very strange times, whether in schools or from home. We are very impressed by the commitment of the youngsters from all our schools to their work. I have seen *some* of what they have been doing, and seen some Tweets showing how students have met some of the challenges set by staff. It is fantastic! I would say two things about learning at home:

1. Please be rest assured that we know it is not always easy to manage this. All we ask that that you encourage your child to do their best. We are not asking you to 'home school' and act as teachers, but to facilitate and support your child to complete and submit as much of the work as they can and with a routine that suits you.
2. If your child is concerned that they are 'falling behind', it is important to remember that every pupil and student in the country is in the same boat. If they can keep on top of the home learning as much as possible, we will plan accordingly when traditional schooling returns.

All the schools in the Trust will continue to provide for your child's education, remotely or in our critical worker/vulnerable children provision. Once again, I must thank you all for following government guidance and keeping children at home wherever possible. We are looking forwards to welcoming a limited number of targeted pupils and students to Great Hollands Primary School and to our secondary "hub" at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. The categories of children eligible for the provision in school are:

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

If you have not accessed a school place, but believe that your child is eligible for one, please contact the Great Hollands Primary School or Maiden Erlegh in Reading school office as appropriate.

Talking to children and young people in my family, I have been impressed by how well natured they have accepted the lockdown all things considered. That said, I know that they are missing the face-to-face time with their friends, and indeed some are also quite anxious. I also know that many parents are finding the situation challenging and are concerned about the future. I include this link to some very useful advice for families from Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group, which contains links to a wide range of groups and organisations which can help parents and families cope with lockdown:

#### [Family life during the lockdown](#)

A separate letter will be sent to parents of students in Years 11 and 13 outlining the next steps towards submitting examination grades. Ofqual has released a useful video aimed at students, but others may be interested in it, so I include it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q&feature=youtu.be>.

The DfE has made an announcement over the weekend regarding ICT provision for certain groups of children. As soon as we know more details about this, we will get back to you.

As things develop over the coming weeks and months, we will keep you up to date but if you have any urgent questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school (using the usual website) and someone will get back to you.

Please keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Miss M Davies