

21 April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## Start of Summer Term

I trust that you were able to have a restful break during the Easter holidays.

Following yesterday's letter from Miss Davies, CEO of Maiden Erlegh Trust, I also wanted to take the opportunity write to you all at the start of the summer term.

Usually, this is the most intense time of the year as students prepare for final examinations and other forms of assessment. This year it feels very different for all of us.

It is very clear that the lockdown (including school closure) will continue for some weeks. However, whilst the school building might be physically closed to students and staff, the school itself is very much open. Not only are we providing online teaching to all our students, but the school is hosting the Trust's secondary provision for the children of keyworkers and our most vulnerable students. We will continue to do our best to communicate with you about work set for students via Classcharts and email and we are providing further help and support to those families for whom internet access is more challenging.

I want to thank you all for your support in ensuring, as much as possible, your children have engaged with learning. Engagement rates have been robust and it has been heartening to see how students have remained committed to their learning in these unprecedented circumstances. I know that many of you have had to adjust your own working patterns and routines to support your children make the most of the teaching we are able to deliver and for that we are very grateful. Increasingly, we are seeing the development of additional resources to support the core lesson material that we are developing. You may wish to explore some of these for yourself:

- Oak National College is a national collaboration of teachers who have put together an interesting and compelling online resource <https://www.thenational.academy>
- The BBC has hugely increased educational programme aimed at all key stages. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- The Department for Education (DfE) has also published a list of what it considers to be "high quality" online learning resources. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

Following the announcement from Ofqual regarding public examinations, On-line teaching provision for Year 11 will conclude once each subject finishes the teaching of course content. Students in this year group will not be expected to complete further work. We will, however, be in touch with year 11 students and their parents about further support that may assist students in their preparation for the next stage of their education and training.

Our highly talented and committed staff are pro-actively developing virtual teaching ideas and resources and refining our approach to the support we are able to provide; we will continue to share how these develop over the coming weeks. If you have thoughts about how we can continue to further develop our online support for students, then do please get in contact.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that over Easter we have been delighted to work with other schools in the Trust and other neighbouring schools to distribute Science goggles and other PPE equipment to carers and key workers in our community. Alongside other schools, we are also helping to produce face visors which are being distributed to those on the frontline in the fight against Covid-19. We want to support the NHS and other carers and will continue to consider how the resources and skills within our school might be dedicated in this aim.

None of us would choose to be in the situation that we find ourselves, but we must continue to follow government and scientific advice in order to protect one another, and the wellbeing of all of those in the community. Eventually we will return to a normal way of life, but in doing so, you have my assurance that we will always seek to promote and safeguard the health and safety of students and staff. Whilst we do not have a timeline for re-opening, please also be assured that we are considering and planning how best to support students when they do return.

Please look after one another and keep safe and well.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr A Johnson'.

**Mr A Johnson**  
Headteacher