



30 December 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

No doubt by now you will have heard the government announcement on adjustments to the start of term for students. The Secretary of State's announcement can be found [here](#).

These plans replace those I shared with you at the end of term and have changed due to the marked increase in COVID 19 infection rates and the prevalence of the new strain of the virus.

In summary:

Monday 4 January – Friday 8 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school will be closed to almost all students for face-to-face teaching;• All year groups will stay at home and will work remotely;• We will be running our special provision for the children of key workers and those in other identified vulnerable groups (they will access online learning from school);• School staff will also be preparing the school to implement the mass testing programme for all staff and students.
Monday 11 January – Friday 15 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school will be open for face-to-face teaching for year 11 only;• Years 7-10 will continue to stay at home and work remotely;• We will be running our special provision for the children of key workers and those in other identified vulnerable groups (they will access online learning from school);• Mass testing of school staff and students will begin in earnest.
Monday 18 January onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school will be open for face-to-face teaching for all year groups;• Mass testing will be concluded and our ongoing testing programme will commence.

If your child/(ren) is eligible to attend our special provision and you would like to register them for a place, please complete the form [here](#). This form can also be used to request a food parcel if your child is eligible for free school meals and you would like to request a food parcel for the period of time that they are out of school. **Please can I request that you complete this form by Friday 1 January 2021.**

Our plans for remote learning are laid out in our COVID contingency planning document [here](#). The most relevant scenario for the first two weeks of term is this one:

Level 5	Whole School Closure: Online Learning <i>Secondary schools, FE colleges and other educational establishments would allow full-time on-site provision only to vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and selected year groups (to be identified by Department for Education).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are working from home, access to all work is through Google Classroom.• Staff and students follow the school timetable.• Our aim is that 50% of lessons delivered over the two-week timetable should be online synchronous (live) lessons.• Please see the remote learning timetable to check which lessons will be taught synchronously (live) and which will be delivered asynchronously (independent learning).• If your child is eligible for Special Provision, and you have signed up for this, they will attend school as normal.
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We will write to you shortly with more detail and planning about the lateral flow testing programme and to request consent for your child/(ren) to be tested.

I appreciate that these arrangements may cause great inconvenience for you, however I am sure you understand that the school has to act on government guidance. You have my absolute assurance that we will do whatever we can to support your child and minimise the disruption to learning, which will be an inevitable result of this staggered start to the year. If you have any problems accessing online learning, then please let us know via meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org as we may be able to help.

Finally, with the positive vaccine news, may I wish you and your family a happy and optimistic New Year. Please do not hesitate to contact the school (From Monday 4 January) if you require further help or assistance.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher