



29 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Headteacher update

I am writing to update you on a number of matters.

Reopening of schools and remote learning

You will have received a letter today from Mary Davies, Maiden Erlegh Trust CEO, making reference to the fact that we now know that our remote learning and special provision model of school will continue beyond the half term break, and until at least **Monday 8 March**. Whilst this was not the news we were hoping for, we all understand that public and community health has to take priority as we all pull together to combat the impact of this awful pandemic. Please be assured that we are working on plans for our students to return including curriculum sequencing, resetting expectations and, very importantly, how we can best support the mental wellbeing of our students.

In the meantime, we are keeping our online provision under regular review and I would like to extend my thanks to those of you who took part in our recent remote learning survey. During the survey we consulted with staff, parents and students on our provision and the feedback has been very useful. In light of this, we are considering making some adjustments to the timings and length of lessons and to build in more frequent and longer screen breaks. I am currently working with the staff on a proposal and I will share the outcome of that with you next week. Any changes will be put in place from **Monday 8 February**.

One thing that is very clear is that all students and staff have been spending a long time on screens and this is not always supportive of our wellbeing. So, on **Friday 12 February** we are planning to “collapse” the normal timetable day and do something different. In place of their normal timetabled lessons, we will be providing students with a menu of different educational, wellbeing and personal development activities that they might like to do during the day which, crucially, do not involve them staring at a computer screen. We will also be encouraging students to take some time to organise their class notes and work so that they are ready, after half term, to begin what we hope is the last phase of remote learning. **The only exception to the no-screen day is that we would like students to register as usual with their tutor at 8.45am.** This will support their engagement in the day and also allows tutors to check in with students.

Special Provision during half term

Unlike the last lockdown, the school is not required to open or offer our special provision over the February half term. Therefore, the school site will be shut to the children of critical workers and vulnerable students. Contact tracing will continue should we be notified of any positive cases. Please notify the school if your child tests positive for COVID during the half term break, using the office email address. The local authority will be making arrangements for free school meal provision during the half term break and we will let you have details about this when we are informed.

DCP, PPE and grades strategy summer 2021

Attached is a letter from Mr Attridge, the Trust lead for data and assessment, outlining the plans which we have for the scheduling of reports and, for examination groups, pre-public

examinations (PPEs) and non-examination assessments. The letter also outlines some of the approaches we envisage taking in response to the cancellation of the 2021 examinations. We are awaiting the outcome of the government's consultation on their plans and, until that happens, all our thinking must be provisional. I hope, however, that the letter begins to give you an idea of what may be coming over the next few months.

Lateral Flow Testing

We continue to test staff and students attending the special provision within school. Following updated guidance, any staff and students with a positive LFD test result will need to immediately self-isolate in line with the [stay at-home guidance](#). Staff and students with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school and follow our control measures. The initial government plan for daily testing for those who have been in contact with a positive case has been paused. Contacts of confirmed COVID cases will be required to isolate for the 10 days from the point of contact. Our in-school testing programme is designed to pick up asymptomatic cases and does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines and obtain a PCR test (either a home test or at a testing centre). If you have a child who does test positive, please could you inform the school so that we can continue to monitor the prevalence of infection in our school community and, if necessary, commence track and trace measures.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you need further help or support. We will do everything in our power to help and support you and our students, so please reach out to us if you need to. We know we can only get through this most difficult time by supporting one another.

I hope you have a restful weekend,

Yours sincerely



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher