



9 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Headteacher update

It has been wonderful to see our year 10 and 11 students back into lessons today following their first lateral flow tests yesterday. I am pleased to report that our detailed arrangements and planning have proven to be fit for purpose and the first part of the week has been very smooth. Students are, for the most part, looking extremely smart and they are certainly ready for learning. I have been particularly impressed by the way that students have chosen to follow our requests about wearing face coverings in lessons, recognising that this supports the school to stay safe and open for business. We have felt the impact of your positive support from home over uniform, equipment, face coverings to name just a few areas and I am very grateful. Our priority is to get our students learning and back into those positive routines, within which they thrive. Today we tested year 7 and 8 and they will be back to face to face learning tomorrow, with year 9 to follow on Thursday. It is a huge relief and we could not be more delighted to have our students back.

Pastoral team changes

Miss Hancock, Head of Year 11, will formally be going on maternity leave at Easter and we wish her well at this exciting time. To guide and support year 11 through the final weeks of their time at the school, Mr Bandy, currently Head of Year 7, has agreed to temporarily move across to cover year 11. Mr Bandy successfully led last year's year 11 through the challenges of lockdown and he has all the skills and expertise to support our current year 11 – they are in safe hands. There will be a short period of transition between now and Easter where Mr Bandy and Miss Hancock will work together.

In the interim and to support year 7, I am delighted to announce that Mr Cameron will be stepping up to take on the role of temporary Head of Year until Mr Bandy returns to the year group. There will be a short period of transition between now and Easter for this year group also.

Year 11 qualifications event

We will be hosting a special virtual information event on **Thursday 18 March at 6pm** for students in year 11 and their parents to explain the process that will be taken to award students their grades in the summer. Much work is going on behind the scenes to prepare for this and to develop a robust and fair approach. Maiden Erlegh Trust will soon publish the approach that will be taken and next Thursday's information event will give the opportunity for us to explain the plan and take questions. The information event will happen using Zoom and we will be in touch with year 11 parents with links and other details.

Surveys

Finally, it is hugely important to us that we receive regular honest feedback on the school and how we are meeting the needs of our key stakeholders. So, if you have not already done so, please could you complete our annual Maiden Erlegh Trust parent survey [here](#). Please could you also encourage your child to complete the student survey [link](#). The more feedback we get, the better picture we will have of how we might develop in the future.

I look forward to sharing more news about our successful return to face to face learning later in the week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Johnson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher