



1 April 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

The end of a unique term

What a term it has been.... but then again what a year it has been!

I am pleased that we have reached the end of the Spring term, fully open and back into the routines and business of teaching and learning face to face. Staff and students have shown great resilience, optimism and a huge capacity to overcome the challenges that the pandemic, our necessary safety measures and the lockdown have thrown our way. However, it has had a toll on our levels of energy and so the forthcoming break is very welcome.

Despite the challenges, there have been so many positives this term – please take time to read about some of them in our new edition of The Pulse – which can be found [here](#).

Lateral flow testing

Please remember to carry out the lateral flow tests at home over the Easter holidays. The recommended schedule is Sunday evening/Monday morning and Wednesday evening/Thursday morning. Test results are to be reported to both the NHS and the school using the links available on our website [here](#). Positive results should also be emailed to the school on meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Contact tracing arrangements over the Easter holidays

In accordance with DfE guidance, the school will remain responsible for contact tracing over the first 6 days of the Easter holidays. Please can we ask therefore that you report to us via meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org if any of the following apply:

- A student develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school;
- A positive lateral flow result is received within 48 hours of being in school.

The email account will be checked at 10:00am daily.

Please note that all positive lateral flow results will require a confirmatory PCR test to be taken. Contact tracing will however be triggered by a positive lateral flow result. You may therefore be contacted in the holidays and advised that your child needs to isolate until the result of the PCR test is known. If the PCR result is negative, the period of isolation can end. If the result is positive, the 10 day isolation period will continue and will be deemed to have started from the date of the initial lateral flow result.

Any positive lateral flow results that occur after more than 2 days of being in school (Easter Sunday onwards) should be reported to NHS Test & Trace, who will provide contact tracing instructions to you. We would ask that all results of lateral flow device tests undertaken over the holidays are also reported to the school using the links above.

The summer term

Looking forward to next term, we anticipate being able to relax some of the restrictions we have been working under and hope, for example, to reintroduce an extra-curricular programme and possibly some educational visits. We also have some very exciting initiatives and

opportunities which will further support our character development programme for our students. Watch this space!

Of course, we will be watching carefully to see what the government says about the gradual lifting of national restrictions. For example, we await further guidance on face coverings and student 'bubbles'. We all want to get to an even more "normal" situation as quickly as possible, but we will always be cautious and put the safety of our students and staff first and will be updating and publishing our COVID risk assessment.

After the break, we will be reconsidering our famous DREAM acronym. This spells out what high expectations "look like" in our students and among our staff. This is vital to the success of the school and of each individual within the school. I have asked staff to focus on renewing and reinforcing the quality of teaching and challenge in the classroom (which has been so disrupted over the last few weeks) so that we are using every minute in lessons to enable students to learn and grow. We will also be reiterating our high expectations around school "culture" so that students are coming to school smartly dressed, with the right equipment to learn, are punctual and follow our school rules.

Please can I ask you to review your child's uniform, shoes, equipment etc. so that they are ready for the new term. Thank you supporting the school in re-emphasising these high expectations with your child.

Attendance

We are also expecting all children to attend school. Since the end of the lockdown and return to face to face teaching, some students' attendance to school has not been as strong as it should be. Now, there are a variety of reasons for this, but again, I need to ask all of us to work together to support students to be in school. The plain fact of the matter is that if students are not in lessons, then they cannot learn. If you are facing particular challenges in getting your child to attend school, then please let us know so that we can work together to support them.

Have a great break and I look forward to seeing the school community back together, refreshed and ready to go once more.

The summer term commences on Monday 19 April. Students should arrive to school at their usual start time.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher