



17 May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Today sees the further relaxation of safety measures nationally, and in school this largely focuses on face coverings. These are no longer required to be worn by students during lessons, however we are still requesting students to wear them in corridors and in social areas. I have been very impressed by the way our student community has navigated wearing face coverings in lessons. Our students have been very stoical and keen to follow our requests – it has not been easy, but they have worn the coverings without complaint. We will continue to ask students to wash their hands regularly and clean down their work areas once they have finished a lesson. Interestingly, both staff and student absence for general illness is markedly down this year, so it would seem our COVID related safety measures are also having a wider positive impact!

I am also writing to ask for your support over a couple of other matters.

Recent events in the Middle East

Many of you will be gravely concerned by the pictures and news reports about increased tension and open conflict in the Middle East. As a school with a very diverse cultural and ethnic mix, a number of our students have, understandably, expressed particular dismay and concern. As a school we will be looking for ways to appropriately explore the issues around the conflict and in such a way that respects a range of perspectives, but also gives space for those with particular concerns and frustrations to express these. Today a very small number of students took it upon themselves to make their own protest by sticking up posters and slogans concerning the conflict around the school building. Whilst engagement with contemporary issues is always to be applauded, this was not the best way to do this. If you have a child who has particularly strong opinions and feelings on these issues, please could I ask you to support the cohesion of the school by encouraging your child to engage with the school organised opportunities that we will arrange over the next few days.

Arranging appointments

As you know, we have unashamedly high expectations around students' attendance to school. The data is absolutely clear that one of the biggest reasons for student underachievement is poor school attendance. Put simply, we cannot teach students if they are not here to learn!

It is therefore school policy to ask you to ensure that all medical or dental appointments for students be made after the school day has ended, except in an emergency. We do, however, understand that due to COVID restrictions, this may not always be possible. If your child does have an appointment that requires them to leave school during the day, please give at least 24hrs notice, unless it is an emergency appointment, via email to MERoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher