



28 May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

End of half term

The Pulse

The new edition of our half termly newsletter has been published and is on the website [here](#). Another bumper issue, it is packed full of good news stories about the life of our community. It is a real relief after the challenges of the last year to see school almost back to normal. I would like to pay tribute to my fantastic staff team who have been working so hard to ensure that our students get every necessary support and take advantage of every opportunity.

CommUNITY

This week, I spoke to all students about being a united community. I always get some surprised looks when I remind our students that every day we usually have over one thousand human beings in our building! To make an effective, harmonious and productive community, we all have to make the decision to be understanding, tolerant and patient with one another. I addressed some of the tricky issues we faced last week (see my letters on [18](#) and [19](#) May) but also reflected on the fantastic characteristics and attributes of our school. I am so proud of our whole school community and I know that our staff and students share my wish and desire that our unity and purpose become ever stronger.

Farewell to year 11

Yesterday we had a fantastic morning with our year 11 students as they “graduated” from the school. This is a very special year group who have borne the brunt of lockdown and disrupted plans, yet have persevered and achieved so much. I am very proud of them and their quiet determination not to be defined by the difficulties of this past year but instead by their achievements and their character. Many thanks to Heads of Year, Mr Bandy and Miss Hancock for leading, organising and ensuring that the send-off was so successful.

Home Testing

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your child/(ren) for your continued co-operation with the Covid-19 home testing programme. Please can we ask that your child/(ren) continue to test twice weekly over the May half term. In particular, students should be tested on the evening of Sunday 6 June or the morning of 7 June to ensure the continued safety of our wider school community. All results should be reported even if the result is negative or void, as recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond. Links to report to the result to the NHS and to the school are available on our website [here](#).

The government is also encouraging all adults to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread of coronavirus. You can order tests through the [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests](#) service.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Maintaining a regular habit of testing twice a week, 3-4 days apart, will help stop the virus spreading and keep schools and colleges open to students and staff.

Contact tracing

The school will remain responsible for contact tracing at the start of the half term break. If your child develops symptoms or produces a positive lateral flow device result **within 48 hours of being in school**, this must be reported to us via meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org.

The email will be checked at 10:00am daily. We may need to contact you during the holiday to inform you of a positive result or to discuss this with you in more detail if your child is affected or has been identified as a close contact.

If your child develops symptoms or produces a positive lateral flow device result **after 48 hours** of being in school, this should be reported to NHS Test & Trace directly. The result should still be notified to the school via email for our attendance records.

Water bottles

Please can you remind your child/(ren) to bring a water bottle into school, especially as the weather improves. We are unable to provide cups to students to obtain water from the dispensers in school.

As the weather improves, we will soon move to summer uniform. We will confirm the date and arrangements for summer uniform after the break.

Finally, I wish all our families a great half term break – let's hope the sun shines and that we can all get some rest and recuperation. School restarts for all year groups on Monday 7 June, and we look forward to welcoming all students for the final half term of the year.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher

