



7 January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Happy new year. I trust you and your families had a good break.

Ready...

It has been a pleasure to see our students return and I am pleased to report a calm and focused start to the school term. For the next few weeks we will be emphasising the "Ready..." aspect of our three-part behaviour code. We want students to be "ready" for learning and for us that means that they are punctual, in the correct uniform, with the correct equipment and with the right attitude to make the most of their time in lessons. We have spent time in our start of term assemblies considering "ready..." and anything that you can do to help and support your child to be ready for learning would be appreciated.

Covid update

Following the Christmas break, all secondary schools were asked to invite students in for testing before they joined lessons. We held our testing day on Wednesday and this was a useful exercise as a small number of asymptomatic Covid cases were picked up. It really does underline the importance of continued twice-weekly testing for all so that we keep the school as safe as possible. Please can I urge you and your family to keep on testing!

Nationally, the rates of vaccinations among those aged 12+ could see some improvement. Please could I urge you to get your child vaccinated if you have not already done so. It is, by far, the most effective way of driving down infections. We will be having another round of in-school vaccinations on 27 January 2022. We will write with further information about this next week.

It is, of course, our shared ambition that we keep students in school and teachers in front of them delivering the highest possible quality of education. Thankfully, we have returned to relatively low levels of staff absence (certainly compared with the challenges before Christmas).

Following changes to DfE guidance in respect of the expected Covid-19 control measures for schools, our Covid risk assessment has been updated and is available [here](#). The changes are marked in bold and are principally in risk 1.

The most fundamental changes are:

- where somebody in the household tests positive, students will no longer stay at home until they provide a negative PCR result. They will undertake daily lateral flow tests for 7 days and will be required to provide the results to us by 8:30am each day. Please email us on mercovid@maidenrleghtrust.org if this does apply to you, stating the date of the positive test of the household member. A copy of the result of the daily LFT should be emailed to the same address. **Please note that if we have not received a negative result by the stated time, your child will be unable to attend school and you may be asked to collect them until a negative test result is provided;**
- The isolation period for somebody who has tested positive can now end on day 7 if a negative lateral flow test is produced on days 6 and 7 (24 hours apart). Parents/guardians must provide evidence of the 2 negative results if the child

is to return to school before the usual 10 day isolation period, these should be emailed to mercovid@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Other points to note are:

- Students **must** wear masks in corridors, communal areas and classrooms unless they are exempt. Please let us know as soon as possible if your child is exempt from wearing a mask and they have not already been provided with a lanyard by Student Services;
- Visitors to school will be minimised. Please contact us via email or telephone should you need to discuss anything with us;
- Assemblies will continue to be in person, with students and staff wearing masks unless exempt;
- PE changing rooms will be in use, however students will be required to wear a mask unless exempt;
- Any student participating in a PE fixture must provide a negative lateral flow result on the evening before or the day of the fixture in order to take part.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please let us know as soon as possible. We are expecting a review of control measures on 26 January 2022 and will update the risk assessment at that time as applicable.

New staff

We have been pleased to welcome to the team a number of new members of staff:

Miss S Siddiqui – English department

Ms Y Ali – English department

Mr D Gill – English department

Mr P Hetherington – Science department

Miss E Fuller – Teaching Assistant

Mrs R Hubbard – English tutor

Miss H de Souza - Maths tutor

Ms A Finlason – Trust careers advisor

Finally, if you have not yet done so, I would encourage you to watch my weekly recorded headteacher's update which can be found on the school website [here](#).

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher