



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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11 December 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a very busy and dynamic week with a clear focus on Covid and keeping as much of the school open as possible, on Wednesday I even dusted down my PE kit and delivered some Year 7 PE! We have had staff absent due to self-isolation, problems with their own child care because primary schools have closed or shut year groups down and a few other reasons. Undoubtedly, it has left us stretched. However, #TEAMMECE has pulled us through really well. We had staff out delivering food parcels to Free School Meals students on Monday evening going as far as Calcot. Staff have also covered each other's lessons and supervised classes as the teacher has taught from home via Zoom. Moreover, I have been very pleased by our Year 11 engagement and provision. All of our Year 11 lessons have been live across this week barring Core PE and PSHE as we worked hard to ensure the students don't lose out despite being off school.

There have been a number of e-mails sent into school this week regarding absence next week and asking the school to deliver online learning rather than face to face. Of course, I understand the concerns surrounding the current situation but I cannot override the clear instructions I receive from the Trust and Department for Education that schools need to stay open for face to face learning until at least next Thursday. We have had one or two very unpleasant communications from parents because we won't authorise absence but as I say we have to follow the guidance that we have received that school attendance since the autumn term has been mandatory. Whilst we understand your reasons, legally we have a safeguarding responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence. Parents' also have a duty to secure regular attendance at school to minimise risks of the longer-term impact of this pandemic on student's education.

On Monday we are really excited to be hosting a Zoom assembly for all students about immunisation from Vicki Heath, lead scientist from Great Ormond Street Hospital and expert on immunisation. As this is clearly a 'hot topic' at present it seems very timely to let the students get feedback from someone so esteemed and knowledgeable.

Despite the challenges that we have faced due to Covid we have still managed to keep our Quality Assurance programme moving forwards. Students from Years 7-9 have been meeting with senior staff and bringing their books to discuss their experience of different subjects. I hosted the Performing Arts panel this morning and loved the feedback and erudite praise that the students were able to give of their experiences in these subjects. My particular delight as a Headteacher was the consistency of quality in the books and also the consistency of the way feedback was used along with clear frameworks for assessment and aiming high. We will be using the information from these panels to inform our School Improvement Plan review after the break.



My student of the week this week is all of Year 11 for their fortitude in dealing with their situation with such determination and resolve. My staff member is Ms Hardman who, this morning, hosted a revision breakfast online for Year 11, delivered an assembly to Kidmore End Primary School on levers and forces and is planning a GCSE grade 9 club for Sunday mornings in the new year (Wow!!!). Please do not hesitate to use our [FAB](#) and [DRAB](#) links as well as our [staff member of the week](#) nomination.

Thank you and have a great weekend.

Take care and stay safe.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher