



31 December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Following the announcements made by Gavin Williamson in Parliament on Wednesday 30th December, we are now in a position to confirm the arrangements moving into the new term.

Education provision-Spring term

Week Beginning January 4th

- o Monday 4th January INSET day - no lessons for students
- o Tuesday 5th January until Friday 8th January – remote learning for all*

Week Beginning 11th January

- o Year 11 to attend for face to face learning in school
- o Years 7-10- remote learning

Week Beginning 18th January

- o All students back in school for face to face learning

Our remote learning provision timetable will be confirmed on Monday but will contain around 4 hours work a day and will comprise a mixture of live lessons, pre-recorded presentations and student assignments. **Please be reminded that remote learning is compulsory and students will need to be up and ready to work by 8.45am each morning.**

*From **Tuesday 5th January until Friday 15th January** the school will also be offering a ‘Pop-Up’ school for the children of key workers and those students that the school has identified as vulnerable following the DfE criteria. Parents were sent an e-mail with a Microsoft Form to complete regarding this matter at the end of last term which can be viewed [here](#). If you believe your son/daughter is eligible for this provision please do complete the form linked in the letter (alternatively email us via MECE-Covid@maidenerleghtrust.org) so that we are able to finalise our planning.

Whilst the government announcement is in some ways frustrating it is also understandable and, in many ways, reassuring. The primary concern for all of us both in the local community and national community is to limit the transmission of the Coronavirus. It is important that all of us adhere to the expectations of behaviour that living under Tier 4 make of us and our families so that life (and education!) can return to normal as quickly as possible.

As a staff community we will be gathering on Monday morning and I will stress the importance of our duty in these difficult times to ensure we support the students academically and also to maintain our excellent pastoral support. I do not want this interruption to undermine the strong progress the school has made across the last 12 months.

Our experience from the summer shows us that remote learning can present certain challenges to families especially if there is more than one sibling requiring IT equipment simultaneously. It is our intention that a large proportion of our provision between now and the



15 January will be 'live' following the timetable. Please contact us via MECE-Covid@maidenerleghtrust.org to let us know if your son(s)/daughter(s) will have issues with either reliable access to the internet or to a device to view set work. We have some, limited, options to support families in this situation and will be in contact on Monday with further information

Any student that is in receipt of Free School Meals will be entitled to a food parcel. We will distribute these either from school reception or the Weller Centre in Lower Caversham early next week. Details of the timings will be confirmed on Monday.

I will be writing to you next week regarding 'Mass Testing' and the plans, permissions and arrangements for this process. In the meantime, please be assured we will be following all statutory guidance regarding this matter when it begins in the week commencing 11th January 2021.

Thank you for continued support. We have 16 volunteers from the MECE community to help with the testing and this is testament to the strength of feeling for MECE and what we are trying to achieve here. I know several local headteachers who are very jealous of such support.

Finally, please take care and stay safe and fingers crossed we will soon be back to a more normal way of life.

Yours

Andy Hartley
Headteacher