



5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Last night's announcement by Boris Johnson of a lockdown from midnight tonight has obviously brought with it many implications for students and their well being and academic progress. Whilst the details of this are being assimilated I will give a brief overview of what it currently means for our MECE community.

- 1) Remote learning for all year groups will be taking place between now and February half-term. Our intention is to follow the school timetable and deliver 50-minute sessions for each lesson – please refer to the email sent yesterday afternoon for further details which can also be found [here](#)
- 2) Year 11 **will not** be coming in to school from next week as had been planned but will also be on the remote learning timetable until February half-term. Miss Bliss will write to Year 11 parents later today with more details of the implications for Year 11 and what we know.
- 3) Our Key Worker and Vulnerable student provision will continue to take place in school from today. Parents were written to regarding this before the Christmas break and all students with places in this provision were contacted yesterday. If you feel you qualify for a place as a key worker and haven't contacted the school previously please can you e-mail Mrs Benham at nbenham1@maidenerleghtrust.org to discuss this matter further
- 4) The mass testing programme that we had hoped to roll out next week for all students will now not happen as planned. We will be testing our staff and those students attending school. If we are required to test the wider school population we will let you know in due course.

We are also aware that many of our students will be keen to have their exercise books at home to complete work in and refer to. You will understand that this presents us with some logistical challenges. Over the next day or so we will look at possible solutions and be in contact again later this week. In the meantime, students should complete work digitally where possible.

Our staff met yesterday and spent some hours looking at their remote learning curriculum and tweaking lessons and delivery methods to suit the next two weeks. I was delighted by the unity and commitment of staff to make things work and I have no doubt that this new and slightly more prolonged period of home schooling will be met by staff with the same resolute strength of purpose. Furthermore, in the next few days we will also be firming up our methods of supporting students pastorally across this longer period of physical closure- our process of tutor calls, welfare checks and home visits worked very well for most students in the first lockdown and we hope to replicate much of this methodology this time around.

I know last night's news will leave many students and families frustrated and unsure of what the next few weeks may hold. However, please be assured that we will be doing our utmost that all students remain well and are engaged in our learning provision over the next few weeks. The school has come far in the last twelve months and the wonderful committed and specialist MECE staff will be fully focused on ensuring that this progress continues despite this new 'bump in the road'.

Yours

Andy Hartley
Headteacher