



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## CHILTERN EDGE

Headteacher: Mr A Hartley  
BA(Hons) PGCE

Reades Lane, Sonning Common,  
Reading, RG4 9LN  
0118 972 1500  
MECEoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org  
www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk  
@MEChilternEdge

22 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope everyone is well and finding time to get some exercise and time away from screens.

We have continued our focus on live lessons and live learning as much as possible and continue to be impressed by the fortitude of the students who are keeping a very positive approach to their learning. Now we have settled into our rhythm we are printing a behaviour log twice a week focused on low engagement or non-engagement of lessons and staff will be following this up with regular phone calls on how we can best support the students to get back on course. The subject of students on cameras in lessons has come up a lot on Twitter and in the educational press as well in an e-mail I received from a parent. Our preference is that all students, if possible, are on camera to begin the lesson. The reason for this is a quick safeguarding triage and also at this time of social isolation a quick 'hello' and 'how are you?' which I know is highly appreciated by both staff and students. However, I realise it isn't possible for everyone to be on camera so we can only encourage rather enforce this but I hope everyone is clear on why we are doing this.

During our routinely Lateral Flow Test on site this week, a student has tested positive. We immediately contacted Public Health England and followed their guidance to ensure that only a small number of students needed to self-isolate as a result of this event. Fingers crossed we are now in the final weeks of the pandemic as the vaccine is rolled out but it is very important we remain vigilant and keep up our positive hygiene and social distancing routines when are on the school site.

A huge thank you to parents and members of our wider local community who have donated to our Book Drive initiative launched last week. It has been lovely reading the notes added to orders, and a particular thanks for the box of Maltesers that snuck into one order – they were very gratefully received! I know a number of you have shared the initiative in your own networks too, thank you.

We are aiming to begin book delivery towards the end of next week and into the first week of February. If any parents are still looking to support the initiative you can find the original information letter [here](#) and the Amazon Wishlist [here](#).

Another of our extra opportunities kicked off this week with our Gold and Silver clubs for Higher Ability pupils. I had great fun watching the Year 7 and 8s debate through the chat function the merits of Communism and Capitalism in my session on 'What is Economics?'. It is clear that we have some future leaders in our school, judging by the sparky sharp comments that they were posting in response to my questions.



Next week sees the launch our 'Parent Bites' series – a series of short videos supporting adolescent parenting (or should I say the parenting of adolescents!) in this difficult time. Our first talk will be a short introduction and this will be followed by talks on the power of reading, the importance of sleep and more. Hopefully you will find them informative and full of good reminders and ideas. Please see the link [here](#).

Unfortunately, we have taken the decision to postpone the upcoming Parents' Forum. With the continued uncertainty regarding the return of schools I would like to wait until there is a firmer plan and date and then speak to you about our re-opening plans at a later date.

Please be reminded that we have a calendared INSET day on Wednesday January 27<sup>th</sup>. All of the staff are involved in a remote Trust training day that includes a strong focus on diversity and inclusion. A number of our staff will be presenting on that day, showcasing to the rest of the Trust some of the great things that are happening at MECE.

My staff members of the week this week are Mr Harte and Ms Biddiss for their great work in supporting the team so we can keep our pop-up school running and Miss Cheeseman for her work organising our tutor time world tours! Can I also thank you for some great feedback this week through our fab and drab links? An example of which is below.

*I am writing to you to thank you and your staff for all the hard work that has gone into home schooling, Matthew has been so focused on his lessons and he is enjoying them too which makes this situation a lot easier.*

*I am a very proud parent to say that my son goes to Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge.*

As ever, please use our [FAB](#) and [DRAB](#) links to provide us with any feedback on our work and also use the [staff member of the week](#) link if you want to let us know about any member of staff you feel has gone above and beyond for the school.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Andy Hartley  
Headteacher