



26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you can imagine it has been an interesting week back at school with much for us to consider. The bulk of my communication this week is concerning the re-opening of our school a week on Monday. Please take some time to read the information below although more precise details and timings for each year groups testing and return to face to learning will follow early next week.

Important information

Testing

If you haven't done please complete the 'Testing consent form' that we sent out on Wednesday. The testing of students will provide a lot of individual reassurance to our community and allow us to move forwards together with greater confidence.

[Testing Consent Form](#)

Attendance to school

The government guidance published this week states "school attendance will be mandatory from 8th March".

Whilst we understand there may be some individual anxieties please use the next few days to communicate these to school either through our attendance officer, Mrs Worth on MECEAttendance@maidenerleghtrust.org or via form tutors or Heads of Year. Our attendance across last term was well over 95% and given the pandemic this was exceptional and I thank you for your support in this matter. I am hoping that we can maintain that percentage moving forwards, especially given how important the first few weeks back will be in terms of establishing some momentum, getting back into good study habits and the re-socialisation of all the children after eight weeks at home.

School Uniform

We look forward to welcoming our students back into school and our high expectations continue to apply in all areas including uniform. Students who do not adhere to the uniform policy will be subject to the usual sanctions and we ask that parents support us in our uniform requirements. This also applies to jewellery, make up, extreme hair cuts and colours. Students have 10 days to ensure that any piercings are replaced by small plastic studs, fake nails are removed and hair dye is washed out.



Please can students also make sure they also have the full kit for PE and Dance. We made a big push on students having the school kit for both these subjects last term and it made a big difference to how the lessons looked. Thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support for this matter over the next few weeks.

It is around 10 weeks since many of the children have worn their uniform and tried on school shoes so it may be an idea to get these items out across this weekend to see if they still fit. This gives everyone time to be ready for Monday March 8th and re-opening.

Our Parent Teacher Association, CESA, also offer a pre-loved uniform service. If you wish to donate to this service or purchase any items from it, details can be obtained via their Facebook page.

Our school uniform can be purchased from [Stevensons](#), our uniform supplier.

Please see our full uniform list at the foot of the letter.

Face coverings

Students are now required to wear face coverings as a part of their school uniform during their lessons as well as when moving around all internal spaces within school. An exception to this is when a student is eating whilst sat in the canteen.

Any student with a medical exemption from wearing a mask who we are currently unaware of should let the school know as soon as possible and be ready to share the exemption certificate provided by your GP.

Face coverings continue to be a government requirement for all passengers on public transport including school buses.

Tools for Learning

Our expectations on Tools for Learning remain. This strategy is such an important part of ensuring lessons begin smoothly, in maximising learning time and also in keeping everyone's equipment Covid safe. Please ensure you have all got the items on the list below and are ready to go for March 8th. We have a robust stock of most of the items on the list in our school store so if anyone would like to reserve any items or purchase them on the first day back please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Worth on MECEAttendance@maidenerleghtrust.org

Please see our full 'Tools for Learning' List at the foot of this letter.

Conduct

MECE continues its renaissance and our expectations of high standards of conduct in lessons, around the school site and on the journey to and from home remain. We will spend some time with our students on the first day back reminding them of our expectations.

Please also be reminded that students should not be hanging around together in large groups outside of school as per the current government lockdown restrictions.



Academic Progress

We have been monitoring this closely throughout the latest lockdown and have plans in place to support any student who has fallen behind. We are also revisiting our curriculum again to ensure the sequence supports students in being able to hit the ground running when they return. Once back in school we will work with students to ensure that any lost learning is caught up, but this will be done in a supportive and constructive manner. We will make contact, in due course, with parents where we feel extra intervention is needed.

Summer schools and extended days

There has been a lot of information in the press about the two strategies above. This is something that we are not currently looking at. We want to get students settled back into school and having a sense of normality before we even consider doing something different. We are confident that any lost learning will be resolved, predominantly by Quality First Teaching.

Mental wellbeing

We are aware that some students have found this period of lockdown tough, perhaps tougher than previous ones. As a result, tutors and Heads of Year will triage any concerns and pass them onto our inclusion team. We have increased the number of staff who have had Mental Health First Aid training and they will be available to support students. If you are concerned about your child and their mental health, please contact the school office and we will aim to work with them on their return. As always, we are here to support the students and we believe that normal routine will certainly help them settle back in to school quickly.

We understand the return to school will be a huge adjustment for our families so please be reassured that we are always here to talk through any individual concerns. Our Inclusion team led Mrs Benham and our Heads of Year will be happy to receive your e-mails and discuss any anxieties your sons/and daughters may have.

Finally, everyone here at #teammeece is incredibly excited to at last be able to have our students back on site with us and thank you all for your incredible support across the last weeks. It feels like we are so close to getting back to normality and with just a few more weeks of restrictions we can look forwards to a great summer.

Yours sincerely

Andy Hartley
Headteacher



Tools for learning

'Tools for learning' is designed to reduce the amount of time lost in lessons looking for equipment and supporting students who do not have the right equipment
Every student is expected to have:

The MECE Tools for Learning

- Large see through pencil case
- Three black or blue pens
- HB pencil
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- 30cm ruler
- Protractor
- Highlighter pen
- Scientific calculator (Cassio FX-83GTX)
- Coloured pencil (or pens)
- Glue stick



These items are checked twice weekly by tutors to ensure students have the full range of equipment. We sell the items listed at cost price in our school shop.

Uniform

The school has a traditional approach towards school uniform and expects all students to wear the correct school uniform. We consider that a smart appearance is an important element on the setting of high standards and reflects the tone and ethos of the school. The cooperation of parents in helping us to set and maintain high standards of appearance is essential. From our experience and observations of other schools, there is no doubt that schools that maintain high standards of dress and appearance are more successful.

Students must wear the required uniform, and wear it properly.

Please note that trainers, plimsolls, VANS etc, do not count as shoes.

If a student does not wear the correct uniform we reserve the right to require them to wear replacement items from our stock. Students not wearing correct uniform will be given a sanction, unless they have a signed note from a parent/guardian.

All items of uniform are available from www.stevensons.co.uk.

www.stevensons.co.uk/Schools/maiden-erlegh-chiltern-edge-reading/355



Personal Appearance

Well-groomed hair (no extreme styles, a minimum of Grade 1 may be worn)

Long hair tied back (longer than shoulder length)

Natural coloured hair

One small silver/gold stud or ring in the lower earlobe only (no other jewellery should be worn to school)

We recommend that all children wear a wristwatch to school.

No make-up or nail varnish except light foundation

Coats with slogans on them and jean jackets are not acceptable.

Boys' uniform

- Traditional white shirt (long or short sleeved) x 2
- MECE School tie
- MECE Blazer (navy with embroidered logo)
- Grey trousers
- Plain, navy V-necked jumper (optional)
- Plain black or navy coat or anorak
- Black, navy, grey socks
- Plain black, navy, grey turbans
- Black polishable school shoes- no logos or trainer styles

Girls' uniform

- Traditional white shirt (long or short sleeved) x 2
- MECE School tie
- MECE Blazer (navy with embroidered logo)
- Grey drain leg trousers OR
- Grey drop waist skirt (worn just above the knee)
- A grey salwar may be worn under the skirt for religious reasons.
- Plain, navy v-necked jumper (optional)
- Plain black or navy coat or anorak
- Black, navy, grey, white socks/ black tights
- Plain black, navy, grey headscarves/hijabs
- Black polishable school shoes- no logos or trainer styles

Physical education and games kit

(* indicates kit which is optional)

Boys

- Navy blue polo shirt (MECE logo)
- Navy blue shorts
- Navy blue sports jersey with white panels (MECE logo)
- Navy blue sports socks
- White sports socks (indoor PE sessions)



- Non-marking trainers
- Football boots
- Shin pads
- Mouth guard
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms*
- Plain navy microfleece*

NB:

When children are competing in football or hockey, they **MUST** wear shin pads. When children are competing in rugby or hockey, they **MUST** wear mouth guards.

Girls

- Navy blue polo shirt (MECE logo)
- Navy blue shorts or skirt
- Navy blue sports socks
- White sports socks (indoor PE sessions)
- Non-marking trainers
- Football boots
- Shin pads
- Mouth guard
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms*
- Navy or black leggings*
- Plain navy microfleece*