



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

Headteacher: Mr A. Hartley
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22 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to give you a few updates ready for tomorrow and this unprecedented situation that we find ourselves in.

I saw on Twitter over the weekend Vic Goddard, who you may remember as the Headteacher from Educating Essex, write that everyone needs to be patient with the arrangements for this week and the coming weeks and what is arranged for now will almost certainly evolve as we evaluate how things are operating. I couldn't agree more...! Since Wednesday evening we have done our best to put together virtual learning for all students, keep on top of examination arrangement updates and construct provision for the vulnerable students and the children of key workers alongside transport for them whilst keeping the school up and running for all students. Alongside this, we were able to give out laptops to almost everyone that needed one, phone all the most vulnerable students and invite them to our provision from Monday, distribute sanitary towels for all of our female Pupil Premium students and have a staff lunch and say farewell to Miss Maskell who has been covering Miss Hardman's maternity leave. It was a busy couple of days.

You need to know that your children were amazing in school on both Thursday and Friday. I must have visited every classroom on at least four occasions and the atmosphere was calm, the students were working. I spoke to all of the students both in assembly and in class and answered questions where necessary. It is obvious that the students were feeling anxious at what is going to happen next and I hope we were able to provide some reassurances about the school and the support they will get. For staff as well, these are incredibly uncertain times and there were a lot of tears amongst the staff body across the last few days. The great frustration is that in a short space of time the school had come a long way and this temporary closure has disrupted the wonderful momentum of improvement that we constructed. The day ended with all of the staff coming out to wave off the buses and it was clear that even amongst the older students this was warmly appreciated and hopefully all the students left feeling loved and cared for.

Year 11

I was so pleased that Year 11 got a decent send off. We were able to let them go through the traditional rites of passage of shirt signing, a final assembly complete with an amazing poem from Miss Bliss and a final photo. It was a little hastily constructed but nevertheless the students most importantly felt the love of the staff for their efforts, achievements and loyalty over the last few years. There were lots of tears from everyone present! It was heart-breaking that a few missed the day because of self-isolation but at least some of them got a live stream via What's App!

Exams

I have done my best to keep up the different streams of information regarding how the students will be assessed but it seems as though the picture is still as clear as mud! It is certain we will be using our professional judgements but is not clear how this will work yet. I have seen schools range between saying sit and wait as we are doing, to others informing the students to sit online mock exams after Easter. I am sure the picture will become clearer and it is worth remembering the Department for Education just like everyone else has been caught on the backfoot by the acceleration of the COVID-19 situation.

Work being set and returned

For this situation to work and for the students to feel as though their efforts are being valued and monitored, feedback is so important. I have impressed upon my staff the importance of ensuring that all queries are responded to and that submitted work is reviewed. Please do let me know if you feel that isn't occurring. For the students who haven't got any technology at home and have paper work packs please send the work to MECE and we will distribute to the appropriate staff.

Year 10

Year 10 have a real priority for us now. It is imperative that all of the students keep on top of the work that is being set for them as they may miss a significant chunk of teaching time. To fill in these gaps will be difficult as time goes on. I have asked my teaching staff to contact home if work isn't completed to see how we can support students to get the work done.

Pastoral support

We are doing our best to develop a system that means that tutors message their tutees on a regular basis and check in to see how they are and if they need any help. Mr Yarwood has come up with a daily tutor quiz which is a great way to start the day too.

Monday provision at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

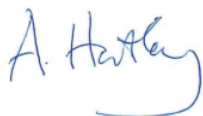
This is just a reminder that this provision is only for the children of key workers who cannot be cared for at home and also the vulnerable students identified by the school and invited to attend. The list of key workers is on the link provided. These are difficult times for all of us but the government have closed schools to limit social interaction so it is really important that anyone not on the list does not try to use the provision as free childcare. Thank you for your support with this matter.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The bus times are below. I will try and have a staff member on each bus for tomorrow to reduce any anxiety the students may be feeling. We will also meet the students at the bus stop near the school and walk them in.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and kind comments. Please keep safe, look after each other and let's work together to ensure this situation disrupts normal life for as little time as possible.

Yours,



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

Sonning Common-Emmer Green-Caversham Heights-Wokingham Road (for Maiden Erlegh School in Reading)							
via Kennylands Road - Peppard Road - Grove Road - Rotherfield Way - Oakley Road - Albert Road - Richmond Road - Woodcote Road - St Peters Hill - Church Street - Gosbrook Road - George Street - Reading Bridge - Forbury Road(IDR) - Kings Road - Wokingham Road (Palmer Park Avenue bus stop, for MESIR campus)							
Monday - Friday on Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge Schooldays only. Commencing Monday 23 March until further notice. For keyworkers' children, during Coronavirus emergency							
				am			
Sonning Common, Reades Lane, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School (turning circle)	✓		0755				
Sonning Common, Kennylands Road, Westleigh Drive	✓		0757				
Emmer Green, Peppard Road, Kiln Road	✓		0800				
Emmer Green, Grove Road, St Barnabas Church	✓		0802				
Emmer Green, Rotherfield Way, Southdown Road	✓		0803				
Caversham Heights, Richmond Road	✓		0808				
Caversham, Church Street (beside Tesco/petrol station)	✓		0815				
Caversham, Gosbrook Road, Westfield Road (beside Westfield Road)	✓		0817				
Reading, Wokingham Road, Palmer Park Avenue	✓		0830				
				pm			
Reading, Wokingham Road, Palmer Park Avenue			1515				
Caversham, Gosbrook Road, Westfield Road (after George Street)	✓		1528				
Caversham, Church Street (beside Waitrose)	✓		1530				
Caversham Heights, Richmond Road	✓		1537				
Emmer Green, Rotherfield Way, Southdown Road	✓		1542				
Emmer Green, Grove Road, St Barnabas Church	✓		1543				
Emmer Green, Peppard Road, Kiln Road	✓		1545				
Sonning Common, Kennylands Road, Westleigh Drive	✓		1548				
Sonning Common, Reades Lane, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School (turning circle)	✓		1550				
Intended to be operated by single deck 41-seat bus - single-deck assumed due to tree cover in Caversham Heights.							
SPECIAL SERVICE 83s							
Caversham Park-Lower Caversham-Wokingham Road (for Maiden Erlegh School in Reading)							
via Caversham Park Road - Northway - Lowfield Road - Henley Road - Donkin Hill - Briants Avenue - Amersham Road - Gosbrook Road - George Street - Reading Bridge - Forbury Road(IDR) - Kings Road - Wokingham Road (Palmer Park Avenue bus stop, for MESIR campus)							
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				am			
Caversham Park Road, Devon Drive	✓		0750				
Caversham Park Road, Queensway	✓		0753				
Emmer Green, Lowfield Road, Ariel View	✓		0754				
Emmer Green, Lowfield Road, Earlsfield Close	✓		0756				
Henley Road County Boundary	✓		0758				
Henley Road, Travellers Rest	✓		0800				
Lower Caversham, Amersham Road, Nire Road	✓		0810				
Lower Caversham, George Street	✓		0817				
Reading, Wokingham Road, Palmer Park Avenue	✓		0830				
				pm			
Reading, Wokingham Road, Palmer Park Avenue	✓		1515				
Lower Caversham, George Street	✓		1528				
Lower Caversham, Amersham Road, Nire Road	✓		1532				
Henley Road, Travellers Rest	✓		1538				
Henley Road County Boundary	✓		1540				
Caversham Park Road, Devon Drive	✓		1541				
Caversham Park Road, Queensway	✓		1544				
Emmer Green, Lowfield Road, Ariel View	✓		1545				
Emmer Green, Lowfield Road, Earlsfield Close	✓		1547				