



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you're all fit and healthy and managing to cope as we end the second week of lockdown. I know that this situation presents all sorts of challenges, however, I also think that whatever happens there are so many positives that can be attributed to our current predicament. It has been great to see so many examples of the community coming together, be it people delivering food parcels for neighbours, schools giving their protective equipment to the NHS and people just talking to each other and looking out for each other more. The weekly clapping at 8pm each Thursday is another wonderful example of the wider community uniting and I do so hope that we can carry this forward after we return to a degree of normality.

On Monday, with Miss Bliss in the chair, we held a staff pub quiz via Zoom which was such fun and included 4 rounds, a hat making competition and a lot of laughter and merriment. I know that my teaching staff have found this situation to be a challenge also, so moments of personal contact such as this have been all important in maintaining morale. Our tutors were asked to call all of their students at home between Monday and Wednesday. I know a few voicemails had to be left but for many tutors they reported really positive conversations with parents and tutees and judging by the feedback we've received all parties valued it. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel a personal call would be of benefit to you or your child – we would be only too happy to help.

As a reminder here are the best points of contact for each year group

Year 7 students	Miss Cheeseman	scheeseman@maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk
Year 8-10 students	Ms Biddiss	cbiddiss@maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk
Year 11 students	Mrs Ashley	cashley@maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk

At the start of next term myself, my Senior Leadership Team (SLT) or the Heads of Year will upload an assembly for each year group onto Google Classroom to launch the term and we will follow up with a phone call across the first and second weeks back. Look out for this visual feast!

Thank you to the 155 students and 130 parents who responded to the survey sent out asking for feedback on remote learning. We have collated the results and it is pleasing that the responses were largely very positive. What was really heartening were the many thank you messages and positive comments about all our staff, recognising the hard work and effort they've been putting in during these turbulent times for all of us.

We will be sharing more formal feedback with you in due course but the main learning points to come out of the surveys were:

- Clearer instructions for some of the work set
- Ensuring the level of challenge and time allowed for work to be completed caters for the needs of all students
- The desire to have more feedback about work that has been completed

These are really helpful pieces of feedback and we have already begun to act on the points made. For instance, we reminded staff about setting appropriate work with clear instructions during our online briefing today and had already asked staff to reduce the workload by 25% in response to some email feedback last week. We have spoken to middle leaders and staff

about assessment and feedback going forwards. We will send out more information after the Easter break but we have already seen staff making phone calls, issuing positive postcards, achievement points and commenting on some work through Google Classroom so hopefully your children are already seeing some response to this point too!

The purpose of the surveys was to fine tune what we are doing and to make sure that we stay ahead of the game in these unprecedented times. Whatever we do, we know that your role in helping continue to educate our young people is paramount so thank you for all you are doing to support remote learning.

During this week we continued with our Pop-Up School at Maiden Erlegh in Reading. This school has been set up for:

- Children of keyworkers who cannot be safely cared for at home.
- Children with an EHCP who cannot be safely cared for at home.
- Children with a social worker.

The students have benefitted from the structured approach and have completed a lot of Google Classroom tasks along with an extra activity each day such as drama, art or some home baking. It has been a pleasure to support these children from both MECE and our other two schools so that key worker parents can perform their all-important roles in ensuring the country combats as well as possible the COVID-19.

If you have not accessed a school place, but believe that your child is now eligible for one, please contact the school office on office@maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk

Supporting children and young people with worries about COVID-19

The internet is full of so much advice for parents that it can be overwhelming.

The government have issued advice [here](#).

It would be sensible to mention to your child that the Childline website has lots of useful information and advice. Even the most resilient children have worries and concerns.

The one recurring theme in all the advice is about connectivity – encourage your children to communicate with their friends and stay in touch using any means available to them.

Finally, this is the end of my first term as Headteacher. I don't remember the interview including a question on the planning of a school shut down and launch of a virtual school during Term1! However, despite what has been a very testing few weeks I would not have changed things for the world. I feel even more confident in my prediction that the school will go from strength to strength in the next few years. The systems are embedding regarding behaviour, staff are really focused on ensuring students get the best possible outcomes, the parental community has been very supportive of the changes and so many of the students seem so keen to work with us and move forwards together. This enforced break is in many ways an opportunity to reflect on what's been achieved in the first few weeks and what we can achieve when we return and I can't wait for that day!

Have a great Easter break; stay safe, keep isolating and social distancing, look after each other and we will resume on April 20th.

Yours



Andy Hartley
Headteacher