



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you're all keeping safe and well and had a good VE Day weekend. I'm writing this on a chilly late Sunday afternoon and I can't believe how the weather has changed. The weekend was lovely which made the social isolating message more difficult to bear however, I'm sure you'll agree keeping apart and remaining vigilant will be so much better for us all in the longer term. VE Day was a timely moment for us all to reflect on sacrifice and national unity given our current predicament. Without these qualities the victory of Britain and its allies over fascism in 1945 would have been so much harder to conceive.

Last week, we definitely noted some fatigue setting in from some of our students so we have decided to adjust the timetable a little which will slightly reduce the number of lessons each week. This will hopefully ease some of the reported anxiety we are regularly seeing and will also allow students to catch up before half term on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, for those students who want to stretch themselves and engage with all aspects of the curriculum there will be academic challenges being set that will only enhance their academic experience and understanding. The creation of revision resources for Year 10 is a great way of enhancing their learning time. <https://getrevising.co.uk/make> provides a number of excellent ideas on this topic

Details of the curriculum changes are set out below:

### WEEK 1:

#### YEAR 7/8/9 (15 hours):

- English - 3 hours
- Maths – 3 hours
- Science - 3 hours
- History – 1 hour
- Geography – 1 hour
- French – 1 hour
- Art/Tech – 2 hours
- PE – 1 hour (as part of daily exercise)

#### YEAR 10 (13 hours):

- English - 3 hours
- Maths - 3 hours
- Science - 3 hours
- Option A - 1 hour
- Option B - 1 hour
- Option C - 1 hour
- PE - 1 hour (as part of daily exercise)

### WEEK 2:

#### YEAR 7/8/9 (14 hours):

- English - 2 hours
- Maths - 2 hours
- Science - 2 hours

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- Drama/Dance/Music – 3 hours
- French – 1 hour
- RE – 1 hour
- Tutor daily challenge – 1 hour
- PE - 2 hours (as part of daily exercise)

#### **YEAR 10 (13 hours):**

- English - 1 hour
- Maths - 1 hour
- Science - 1 hour
- Option A - 3 hours
- Option B - 3 hours
- Option C - 3 hours
- PE – 1 hour (as part of daily exercise)

As previously, we will set work and give students a number of days to complete it. This allows them to work in a slightly less time pressured manner given the problems that home-schooling may provide in terms of routine and working at prescribed times.

Mrs Benham has asked that anyone struggling with the technology side of Google Classroom (no laptop, poor or no WiFi, etc) please contact her at [n.benham1@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:n.benham1@maidenerleghtrust.org)

Wellbeing and student welfare continue to be a priority for us as a school community so please do communicate any issues that you may be having as a family which we may be able to help you with. Mrs Benham, the Heads of Year and Mrs Boys are working relentlessly to ensure that any possible welfare issues are picked up as soon as possible. In the meantime, please do your best to keep routines going, ensure sleep patterns stay 'normal', keep screen time to an acceptable level, encourage lots of exercise and try to have some good quality family time together playing games or watching a film. I know it isn't easy and we've all definitely faced challenges both in our domestic and working lives recently, but trying keep life normal will help our young people to cope and aid their transition back to school when the time comes.

It continues to be a real delight to hear just how well so many students have done in keeping up with the curriculum. During the last couple of weeks, we have been making a conscious effort to post student work onto Twitter ( @MEChilternEdge ) and there have been some outstanding examples of this. It has been great to speak to parents during last week, members of SLT and Ms Biddiss phoned around 25 students in Year 10 to help them in moving ahead a little quicker with their work. It was great to be a part of positive and constructive conversations that really helped to unblock issues and provide solutions for the families concerned.

I have had a busy week meeting by Zoom a number of potential applicants for the Assistant Headteacher vacancy created by Miss Bliss' promotion to be our Deputy Head. It has been a pleasure to speak to people across the South of England (and even abroad!!) about our wonderful school and what is happening in it, judging by the number of applications it is clear the message of growth, development and progression is getting out into the educational community. I can't wait for the interviews at the end of next week.

Since I began in January I have been in regular contact with Penny Snowden from Sonning Common. Penny is an incredibly positive and enthusiastic member of the local community and she organises sports leadership courses for young people in our community (Active Leaders) along with support from Active Oxfordshire. I am delighted that starting today 12 members of Year 10 and 11 will be involved in the next course. These courses are great for building the skills of responsibility, confidence and organisation so I was delighted when we 'sold out' the course last week. My thanks also to Mr Hunter for reaching out to the Year 10 and 11s.

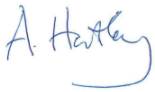
## Addendum

As you will now know Boris Johnson has spoken on Sunday evening with regards to the opening of schools. At present the guidance is hinting towards Year 10 returning later in the term if the scientific conditions are right. Whilst this is in many ways frustrating the most important thing is that the health of the nation is considered and remains the main priority. As an SLT we met via Zoom on Sunday evening and by the time you read this, we will have met again with middle leaders to discuss the repercussions of this and our provision over the next few weeks. The Trust will meet on Tuesday morning and I hope to have some firmer pointers to the next few weeks after these meetings and after the government papers released today. In the short term please work with us in keeping our students positive, engaged and enthusiastic for their studies as this will only help them in the longer term but please contact us if there is anything we can do to support you as a family or the students as individuals.

As ever, please use our [FAB](#) and [DRAB](#) links to leave us any feedback that can help to keep up staff morale or develop our provision during these trying circumstances

Stay safe and look after each other,

Best wishes



Andrew Hartley  
Headteacher