



3 January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you have all had a good family break together and are refreshed and ready for the new term.

I am writing to you to remind of the arrangements for the start of term on Tuesday. This information was previously shared before the holiday but following updated guidance from the DfE today I wanted to re-send the details and provide an update

Face Coverings in classrooms and indoor communal areas

On Sunday 2 January the Department for Education updated its guidance regarding this matter. From Tuesday 4 January until at least January 26 students will be required to wear face coverings in classrooms. This is in addition to the requirement to wear face coverings in corridors and places around the school such as the canteen and hall and on school transport. Please ensure your son and daughter has a face covering with them when leaving for school each morning.

NB: Students currently exempt from this due to medical reasons should wear their lanyard at all times to allow staff to identify these students easily.

Isolation time

As you will know from national news reports, isolation time for those testing positive for Covid has been reduced from 10 days to 7 days provided a negative Lateral Flow Test result occurs on day 6 and 7 after the symptoms began, on condition that people are no longer symptomatic. Schools are being told that they should trust parents in this matter and will not be responsible for the policing of this arrangement. Therefore, if a student wishes to come to school on the seventh day the test needs to be taken first thing in the morning before school.

Infection rates and the smooth running of school

Given the high numbers of infections locally and nationally it is inevitable that the school will be affected in the next few weeks. Whilst we will endeavour to keep on site classes running there is a shortage of agency staff available to help us cover any staff absence and as yet we have received no indication of the availability of any retired teachers in the scheme recently promoted by the Department for Education. Therefore, it may be that we will have to make some difficult decisions over the next few weeks and ask year groups to stay at home. In this instance we will provide work (and as many live lessons as possible). Work will be set through Google Classroom – please ensure your son/daughter has access to this. Any issues should be raised through your son/daughter's form tutor.

Tuesday 4 January 2022

All students in **Years 7, 10 and 11** will return to school as originally planned on Tuesday 4 January. The school buses will be running, and the school day will start at the normal time. Students will be directed to their tutor groups on arrival and will remain there until they have been tested. Lessons will start from Period 3. **Students in Years 8 and 9** will work from home remotely on Tuesday 4 January. Work will be set online by teachers and there will not be "live" lessons during this day. However, it is our intention that Year 8 and 9 form tutors will set up a Google Meet for their form groups between 10 and 10.30am with the aim of sharing information about the start of term and rebuilding relationships after the break. This will be through their tutor group Google Classroom – codes for which were shared with students at the end of last term.

Wednesday 5 January 2022

All students in all years are expected in school. Students in **Years 8 and 9** will be guided to the main hall on arrival whilst they wait to be tested, they will be tested in class groups and once their whole class is clear they will begin their school day. Please make sure they have books and equipment for all their lessons on Wednesday 5. Students in Years 7, 10 and 11 will follow a normal school day.

Consent

A consent form was emailed home in the last week of term to all those students for whom we do not have consent to test. Please can we ask you to complete this and return to us if you haven't done so already so we have the opportunity to test all students on site on their return in January as we do our utmost to keep the school Covid free. **If you have previously completed the form you are not required to do so again.**

The link to the consent form is [here](#) if you need it.

Tools for Learning and Uniform

A reminder that all students should have a complete set of Tools for Learning on their return to school. Any gaps can be filled by purchasing this equipment from Pupil Services during break or lunchtime time on Tuesday 4 January and Wednesday 5 January.

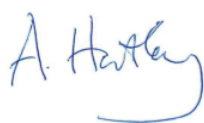
Please be reminded that all Key Stage Three students (Years 7-9) are now required to carry a reading book as part of their Tools for Learning. This will allow us to move forwards in our reading strategy and literacy drive as we promote regular opportunities for quiet reading in school.

Please ensure any uniform problems are clearly communicated to Heads of Year and tutors so that we can support the students to be properly attired on their return to school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact meceoffice@maiderleghtrust.org

Thank you for your support in all these matters.

Andy Hartley



Headteacher