



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parents and Guardians

As I write I'm sure the students will be feeling a little fatigued as the first full week since March draws to a close - I know the staff certainly are!

We've been very fortunate to have been spared any confirmed Covid outbreaks this week and have had our practice quality assured by the Trust with a few pointers for improvement. The big changes affecting students are that we will release Key Stage Three students a few minutes earlier at the end of the day so that they walk to the bus within their bubble. Key Stage Four students will follow at the usual release time of 3.10pm. The buses are busy and although I have been assured we will be given slightly bigger vehicles from Monday after a plea to Reading Buses, a mask will make things safer for all of the students travelling on the bus. Along with this, we have increased the signage and tweaked our one-way system to minimise the number of internal corridors used to move around.

The roadworks on Reades Lane have been another layer which we've had to cope with but my staff have been brilliant, meeting the students off the bus each morning and ensuring their safety and good conduct on the journey into school. From a personal point of view, I've loved meeting and greeting the students each day and I am delighted at the excellent appearance of the students overall. We do need to tackle a few shoes that are not shoes and some of the skirts whilst not rolled are too short for our dress code, so we will be contacting home about this in the next few days if needed.

We've had three different sets of visitors this week who have all commented on the very different feel of the school this year. The lessons are calm, the teaching is focused and purposeful and the school is quiet. This has been mirrored at lunch times with the students sitting and talking in the quad or playing football. The students having a full complement of Tools for Learning has further reduced any disruption to lessons and allowed our staff to really focus on progress and catch up. We have checked each student's Tools for Learning this week and the expectation is that a full set of equipment is mandatory. Please could you use this weekend to either purchase any equipment that is missing from our required list or send the student in with the money to purchase the equipment from school on Monday morning. In most subjects since term began staff have been testing and gauging knowledge and any gaps from lockdown and this will be used as an evaluative tool for deciding on future teaching and individual support. This should really help us as we move forward across this academic year.

The progress of the students will be further enhanced by the wonderful assembly they have received this week from Mrs Hills and Miss Bliss on how the memory works and ensuring knowledge stays in the long-term memory. Our work on knowledge retrieval throughout the timetable is exciting and I hope will lead to some much-improved examination results in the years to come.

Linked to this, our great frustration is that we will not be able to hold an open evening or open mornings in their traditional format this year. We are desperate to see how the school has rapidly changed, how wonderful our students look and how great it feels when you walk down the corridor and hear the sound of the teachers teaching and the silence of the student's concentration and focus. We want our parents and future parents to meet our current students and see how proud they are of the Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge badge and being a part of our great community. We will be hosting a series of online events, details of which we will reveal next week and please do pass on the links to these events to any friends or relations who may be interested.

Have a wonderful weekend and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Andrew Hartley
Headteacher