



12th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many of you may have seen the Prime Minister at 7pm on Sunday and again on Monday, talking about the "5 stage roadmap" and the moves to "Stay alert, control the virus and save lives". There is understandable caution on the part of the government about schools, as it is not yet clear what impact a larger number of students at school would have on the health of students and staff, and their families, or on the wider spread of the virus. Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has made it clear he has not yet set a date for schools moving to the next level of opening. **"Schools will remain closed, except for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, until the scientific advice indicates it is right to re-open and the 5 tests set out by the government to beat the virus have been met"**.

This means that the majority of our students will continue to learn at home. **Currently the implications of the speech are that Year 7, 8 and 9 are unlikely to return to school before the summer.** We are really impressed with all that parents and carers are doing to support their learning at home. We will continue to provide learning guidance and materials for studying at home, in addition to sharing resources and signposting to support students' health and well-being. A massive thank you for what you are doing! We know it is not easy.

The Prime Minister expressed his hopes that students studying for exams next year (Year 10) would get a chance to have some face-to-face contact with their teachers before the summer. The implication is that this would be later in June or in July and then only if the reproduction rate of the coronavirus is low enough at that time.

Our school is preparing ahead for the next phase by researching how we can open to students safely when we are asked to do so, although we currently have no timescale for this. I will provide updates on our preparations as we move forwards. We want to be as well organised as possible to keep you and your children safe. When we are asked to open, it may be a partial opening. For example, by opening to only one year group or a partial year group at a time. We will also be exploring additional options such as "staggered" starts, ends, breaks, lunches, so that this reduces students mixing with each other. Ultimately, we are awaiting more guidance from the government and the Department for Education.

When students do return, there will also be a significant responsibility placed on them to follow health and safety guidelines as instructed, in order to protect others as well as themselves.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs P Wilson
Head Teacher

Head Teacher: Mrs P Wilson BA (Hons)

Telephone: 01453 822469 Fax: 01453 825615 Email: office@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk

Kings Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2HA

www.maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk