



15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this strange and unprecedented academic year officially draws to a close, I am writing to thank you for your support over the last few months. It has been a challenging time for all of us, both professionally and personally, but I have been heartened by the way that staff and parents/carers have worked together to support our young people as best we can, both in their academic studies and with their emotional well-being. Without a doubt, there are still challenges ahead and we will need to continue to pull together as a community, going forwards.

Our final day of term is Friday 17th July, although we are also welcoming a Year 6 group in to school on Monday 20th July. We will be holding an Awards Ceremony on Friday for the students who have been in school as part of our Key Worker and Vulnerable students' group. They have shown great stamina and resilience during their time in school and we congratulate them on their progress. Our website also celebrates some of the achievements of students who have been working hard at home during this period of lockdown. Please take a look at our virtual Wall of Excellence on the celebrating success pages at: <http://www.maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/CelebratingSuccess>. You will also find useful links to support networks and resources for students and families on our website. I do hope you will be able to join us for our first ever Virtual Concert on Thursday 16th when we will be celebrating the progress and musical talents of many of our students. The concert will be available via this link: https://youtu.be/OMahURJG_ns starting at 7pm.

As always, we need to say a few goodbyes at the end of the academic year. Our Year 11 students will be moving on to pastures new and we wish them well in the future. We will be in touch with them over the summer about the final arrangements for results day on Thursday 20th August. We plan to celebrate their five years at Maidenhill when the government tells us it is safe to do so. Miss Webber will be retiring after teaching at Maidenhill for 26 years. She has seen the school change in all sorts of ways over that time and will be missed greatly. Miss Webber's French GCSE results have always been excellent and the number of students who benefitted from the countless visits abroad that she has organised is endless. Mrs Anderson has secured a well-deserved promotion at a local secondary school and Ms Sackett has decided to become a full-time mum from September onwards. Ms Rust and Ms Dervish, Learning Support Assistants, are also leaving. We wish all our leavers well and thank them for their contributions to the work of Maidenhill. We are also pleased to inform you that we are fully staffed for September, despite the lockdown.

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You may be aware that it is the government's expectation that all students will return to school in September and we are currently making extensive and detailed plans to make school as safe as possible for students and staff. Government guidelines are very clear that there will be significantly less social mixing in school and we are looking to create, amongst other things, staggered breaks and lunchtimes to facilitate both indoor and outdoor spaces for designated groups of students. School will feel a lot more regimented in terms of movement around school and the way that lessons are delivered. Students need to expect some new rules and they need to understand that health and safety rules are not negotiable; they are there to support the well-being of all at Maidenhill. I will be writing to you to give more details later in the summer holiday, as the guidelines from the Department for Education continue to be updated. Please do make sure you read all of the information and instructions for you and your children very carefully when you receive them. We will all need to adapt to new ways of working and we all have responsibilities to keep everyone as safe as possible.

In the meantime, please do check that school uniform which hasn't been worn since March, as I suspect many students will have grown in the last 4 months! We understand that Bateman's are doing online orders and also appointments for in-store purchases. Please do not leave it too late in the holidays as they supply many local primary and secondary schools. A reminder also that if students are wanting to experiment with hair colour, this should be completely washed out by the start of term, as our uniform expectations clearly state 'natural colours'. Similarly any false nails and/or piercings will have to be removed by the start of September, so please do not allow students to 'get this done' late in the holiday. We want to have a positive start to the new academic year and welcome students back, without the distraction of uniform infringements. Our website provides a useful reminder of our expectations.

Our return to school in September is as follows:

Tuesday 1st September – INSET – staff only
Wednesday 2nd September – Year 7 only; to arrive by 8.40am
Thursday 3rd September – All year groups to arrive by 8.40am

Further details about our September start, including arrival procedures and a link to our Risk Assessment will be sent during the holidays.

I would like to wish all our students and families a safe, happy and healthy summer holiday. We look forward to seeing all students in September and hope they come back with a positive and determined attitude towards their learning.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs P Wilson
Head Teacher