



19th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10,

We were really pleased to welcome Year 10 students back into school this week and we are delighted that so many students recognised the importance of getting back into school, familiarising themselves with the new health and safety arrangements and taking advantage of using the school facilities to get back into the routine of working using school computers. Students should be commended for their positive and constructive attitude shown throughout their session in school.

We know that this period of lockdown has been difficult for many people and we wanted to give students the opportunity to talk about their experiences with their tutor in a 1:1 conversation. Tutors who are not yet able to be in school held those conversations remotely with students via Microsoft Teams. Most students seemed to appreciate this time with their tutor.

Next week, i.e. beginning Monday 22nd June, students will follow the same format of arriving at 9.20am for a 9.30am prompt start and finishing by 12.45pm. Students will again be based in a computer suite for the morning, giving them the opportunity to complete online learning with the support of staff, as well as touch base with their tutors. We are also planning to include a session to help students to start to focus on their next steps and their career pathways. The session is designed to help students understand the support available to them, the Post 16 options they have within the local area including entry requirements, and activities to help them to understand the skills and qualities needed by employers. We will build in time for them to think about interview techniques and complete their C.V. Students will attend school on the same day as this week:

Monday 22nd June – Haresfield

Tuesday 23rd June – Doverow

Wednesday 24th June – Frocester

Thursday 25th June- Rodborough

I also wanted to let you know that we have been adding to the resources on the school website, in particular with regard to safeguarding and specifically, emotional and mental health. These can be found by clicking on the 'Safeguarding' tab at the top of our homepage. We have also developed the careers section. The careers page of our website provides our vision for careers education at Maidenhill and you will find information regarding the things we currently do, as well as our future plans. There is also a growing list of resources and websites for students, parents and carers to utilise to support careers information and guidance. All of these resources can be found under the 'Parents & Students' tab on our home page.

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We know that students would appreciate some face-to-face time with their different subject areas and specialist teachers, and in the weeks beginning 29th June and 6th July we will be enabling this to happen. During these two weeks, students will continue to attend in their Learning Communities but they will attend full days and will have three subjects each day. Class sizes will continue to be smaller than usual and movement around the school will be limited, in line with current government health and safety guidelines. There will be an opportunity to buy cold food in the canteen at lunchtime, so you may want to check credit levels on ParentPay well in advance, as the catering company are not able to take cash payments. There will be a cold free school meal provision for eligible students. Students will need to bring any snacks they require for break time.

The majority of Year 10 students have now experienced the health and safety measure we have introduced following government guidelines. Social distancing and frequent hand washing are critical in supporting student and staff health and safety. Our normal school rules still apply including those with regard to mobile phone use, and caps/hoodies should be removed in the building, as usual. Students do not have to wear uniform for the current sessions, but please do ensure you sort out any new uniform well in advance of the new academic term. I understand Bateman's has an online order facility and they are offering appointments for in-store shopping. Please be aware that parents are reporting that these appointments are going quickly.

In the meantime, I hope students set up and/or continue a good routine for their online learning at home; we are looking forward to seeing Year 10 in school again next week on their allocated day. I will write next week giving further information about the subject specific face-to-face sessions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P Wilson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mrs P Wilson
Head Teacher