



16th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are fast approaching the end of what has been, in many ways, a very unusual term. You will be aware from our recent email that term will finish for Years 7 and 8 at 1:00pm and at 1.05pm for Years 9 to 11 on Friday 18th December. The new term will start on Monday 4th January 2021.

I am very pleased that we have been able to, for the most part, continue a normal provision of lessons and learning for our students since September. You may be aware that a small number of staff members have needed to self-isolate at different times, or follow shielding instructions during the second lockdown. Throughout all of this, we have managed to maintain a high level of normality in lessons and students have responded well when their regular teacher has had to be absent. I have been particularly impressed with how students have adapted to 'live' lessons being delivered remotely by Miss Webster and Mr Price-Bates in science.

Schools have been asked by Public Health England and the Department for Education to remain as the contact point for students who receive positive Covid tests in the lead up to Christmas, i.e. until 24th December. Close contacts of a positive case have to be tracked and traced in order that those close contacts can in turn self-isolate and protect their families and friends.

As a school we have to respond if there is a positive result when the person has been in school during the 48 hours prior to symptoms developing. Therefore, if your son/daughter develops symptoms, I urge you to get a Covid test done and then inform us of the outcome as soon as possible, using our special email address: outofhourscovid19@maidenhill.gloucs.sch.uk. This email address will be monitored each morning. We will then aim to contact all close contacts of that student/staff member as swiftly as we can. We want all our families to be able to reduce the risk of transmission to their loved ones.

You may well be aware, that many Gloucestershire secondary schools have had to close to specific year groups for 14 days during the last term, due to positive cases. As a result, students and staff in those schools have had to self-isolate and move to online learning. This will continue to remain as a possibility for all schools going forwards in the New Year and I would urge students and families to check again that they have remote access to our school systems through RMUnify to enable students to use Satchel:One (SMHW), Mathswatch, Kerboodle, GCSEPod, SENACA etc. We have so many online resources available to students to enable high quality learning to continue. Ideally students need access to a laptop or PC with the ability to type, in addition to their phone, to help them with their learning. Reconditioned and refurbished laptops are available at a much cheaper price than a phone. Perhaps an ideal Christmas present idea for a secondary aged student?

Year 11 students should be commended for their approach to their recent mock exams. They have shown great maturity and resilience in unusual circumstances. The mock exams will provide useful evidence of students' current performance, but most importantly will help them to identify how well they are learning and revising during their final year and what they need to do going forwards to maximise their chances of getting their very best grades. We will be holding a Year 11 Parents' Evening, virtually, on Wednesday 13th January. Details of how to book appointments and hold appointments online are being sent out to parents/carers. We are confident that using the online platform, 'SchoolCloud', will enable us to continue to develop positive working relationships with parents/carers. This is important for every student. Year 7 will have a virtual parents' evening later in January.

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A big thank you to all students and families who brought in contributions to go to the Stroud Food Bank. We were pleased to deliver 90.45kg of food that will be used to support families in need in the local area, in the lead up to Christmas. Some of our families also receive this support, so it is much appreciated. On the last day of term students have been invited to support the charity, Save the Children, by wearing a Christmas Jumper instead of their blazer and by donating 50p. This is being organised by a group of Year 10 students.

In the lead up to Christmas our Reward Shop has been open again and students have been able to 'purchase' items using the positive points they have gained for their attendance and for 'being kind, working hard and looking smart'. Students have also been invited to suggest reward items for the next Rewards Shop in February. Some students buy something every term, others choose to save up for larger items the next term.

Please be aware that the cost of the main meal in the school canteen is being increased to £2.50 in the New Year. The main meal consists of a main course and a dessert. Other items will continue to be available, provided by our caterers, Harrison.

At the end of term, Mrs Webber, Learning Support Assistant, will be leaving Maidenhill. Mrs Webber has been balancing her counselling work with her work with us, but from January will be focussing all her time and energies on her counselling. We thank Mrs Webber for the skilled work she has undertaken with students and wish her well in her work. We know that young people will benefit greatly from her expertise.

I would like to again thank parents/carers for their ongoing support for Maidenhill, particularly during these challenging times. Staff have worked so hard to keep the school as safe as we can for everyone, and your support as parents/carers really makes a difference. Thank you.

I wish students, staff, parents/carers and the wider community a happy, Covid-safe Christmas and a healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing students on Monday 4th January 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs P Wilson
Head Teacher