



5 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are keeping safe.

This situation not easy and I appreciate, like many staff across the Trust, you are juggling work (whether at home or not) supporting your children, caring for family members and taking care of yourself. We do understand this and that you can only do your best – and that is fine. Well done on all you are doing.

Education provision

Our Secondary Hub and Great Hollands Primary School both continue to welcome students who are working hard and participating well in the life of the schools. Alongside that, staff continue to set learning activities for all students across the Trust and, having seen what the pupils and students are producing, I am hugely impressed with the young people and grateful with your support.

With regard to Year 11 and Year 13 provision, now that most of the courses have concluded, the schools are developing packages of work to support transition. Some of these are up and running already and others will be available shortly. For example, Year 13 students have been given links to free **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)** to help them prepare for university.

Pastoral Care during Lockdown

As well as continuing to provide education for your children, our staff have been providing pastoral care too. Students at our special school, Hamilton, are being contacted daily by staff. At Great Hollands Primary School staff are in regular telephone contact with lots of their families. At the time of writing, our three secondary schools had logged just over 2000 welfare calls and emails to students and families. We know how important these contact points are for some children and our staff will continue to check in for as long as the situation lasts.

In an unprecedented time of upheaval and change, it is understandable that many young people's mental health may be particularly vulnerable. This online course can help them learn how to manage low mood and depression during COVID-19:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/low-mood-during-covid-19/1>. It would also be appropriate for parents, carers and other adult who support young people.

Maiden Erlegh School has created a designated Wellbeing google classroom page which secondary students can access. Your child's Head of Year will have details of how to access this area if your child is interested.

Everything you need to know about online platforms

We know that most of our children are spending (even) more time on their devices than usual and most especially on Netflix, TikTok, Houseparty and other social media platforms. National Online Safety provide guides to all the apps and platforms your children are using as well as general advice for you and them about staying safe online and taking care of mental wellbeing. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>



Updated advice and guidance for parents from the DfE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

This includes:

- [a list of online educational resources](#)
- guidance to [help primary school children continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)
- enhanced education provision from the [BBC to include daily lessons](#)
- an online resource from [Oak National Academy](#)

News from the schools

Hamilton School

- The school is working with Fareshare to deliver food packages. The parents have been incredibly grateful *"I don't know what I would have done without you lot, thank you"*.
- The Hamilton School Lockdown Photo Album is coming on nicely and here are two Year 9 student examples.
- Below is a poem written by Year 11 student called 'Corona'.



CORONA

*Coronavirus the killer disease,
Is leaving people weak at the knees,
Victoria Beckham is trying to take the nations fees,
Furlough is taking ages to release.*

*Piers Morgan tells his guests facts,
But the Prime Minister still has no vacc(ines).
People always talk about Corona and how long it's
going,
But for Families it's just the not knowing.*

*The Prime Minister had time off due to the Crisis,
Makes us realise family is priceless,
Thousands are dying, families all crying.
GCSEs cancelled after all that trying.*

*123 NHS workers lost their lives,
Trying to do the country right,
All they wanted was PPE and had to fight,
We cheer for every Front Line worker on a Thursday
night.*

*Ministers go on the news with differential political
views,
5pm Corona update on BBC News,
Captain Tom Moore we salute you for raising £29
million and more,
But until it's safe to go out, stay behind your door !!!!!*

Maiden Erlegh School

The #TeamMaidenErlegh values are shining out through staff, students and parents who are working together in these difficult times. Staff are continuing to keep in touch with students through regular phone calls home in addition to setting work and helping at the "Pop-Up" school.

Parents are hugely positive about the support and provision e.g:

"I just wanted to drop you an email to say how utterly impressed I am by you and your amazing team. The support they are showing the children with their schoolwork is amazing and the video on Facebook yesterday was such a wonderful thing to do! It really does show the spirit of #TeamMaidenErlegh".



MES is still helping Leighton Park to produce facemasks for carers. Thank you to Mrs Mughal, Mr Jones, Mrs Mackenzie, Mrs Rees, Mrs Grainger and many others.

Mr Pringle is raising money for New Futures whilst training for Reading half marathon running around the local area dressed as a dinosaur – he also has created the staff videos <https://www.facebook.com/MaidenErleghPeDepartment/videos/865267747304136/>

Ben in Year 7 is completing 5km on a cross trainer every day in April and May to raise money for Daisy's Dream. He and his mum will then do 12.5km on the final weekend in May for this brilliant cause!

Alex in Year 13, since we left school has been giving up his time to pack care boxes for essential workers.

Peter in Year 12 has informed us during one of the keeping in touch phone calls that he has not put a pair of shoes on for 43 days! That will be a transition, when he comes back!



Maiden Erlegh in Reading

Well done to the five students who took part in this year's School Starpack Awards (for consumer packaging design) all of whom received resoundingly positive feedback. Particular congratulations go to Finley on receiving Gold, Josette for Silver and Eliza for Highly Commended. And a huge thank you to Mr Bradley,



Students are participating enthusiastically in House Stay At Home Competitions egg: to design a pinball machine and to construct the tallest tower of cards.

Great Hollands Primary School

The children have been working hard on a variety of subjects from the Romans, science, maths, gardening, PE ... And the pupils have been making rainbows, sewing and reading in some very strange places! I have seen photos of children reading in cupboards, upside down and even with rats! Well done everyone!

Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge



On top of their studies, students have taken up challenges for PE, art, science food. The Student Council have met virtually.

Congratulations must go to the Year 11 Rugby Team who, despite everything, have been nominated for an Oxfordshire Youth Award.



Across the Trust

Staff are working on preparing **examination grades and rankings** for the examination boards. We have a very thorough process which takes into consideration a range of factors and is standardised and signed off by multiple layers of staff. We are taking the time to do this work thoroughly and we are confident that this will produce fair and accurate outcomes for our students. These then will go to the examination boards who will apply their own moderation process.

I urge secondary students and their parents to keep their eyes peeled for our new **careers newsletter**, "Careers Spotlight" which will be published next week.

We were delighted to welcome a **Speech and Language Therapist** to the Trust team last week. Wai Thong joined us from a clinical setting where he worked across diverse establishments including hospitals, schools and private practices. He has experience of a variety of caseloads including paediatrics (both in mainstream schools and special educational needs schools). We know that Wai will be a valuable asset to us. Should you have any questions about Speech and Language support, please contact the school SENCO.

Over the last few weeks, I have read some lovely emails that have come in from parents and members of the community. **Thank you, thank you, thank you - this means a great deal for colleagues who are working so hard on your children's behalf.**

On Friday we celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. As with so many things recently, we have had to change our plans for how we will mark this day, but mark it we should (socially distanced of course). As well as showing gratitude for the peace that settled on Europe and remembering the enormous sacrifices made at home and abroad, we can also take a moment to acknowledge the resilience, adaptability, community spirit, kindness and strength that we are showing today. What a great testament to those who fought so hard to allow us to live our lives today!

Keep safe and look after each other.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miss M Davies'.

Miss M Davies
Chief Executive Officer