

Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves,
Leicestershire, LE12 8QY
Tel: 01509 890237

Maplewell Hall Post 16
Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 4SQ
Tel: 01509 891906

Email: admin@maplewell.leics.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr J Brooks B Ed (Hons) NPQH



Where we aspire, nurture, personalise,
engage and promote success

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you to provide you with an update regarding the latest developments at Maplewell.

Our lateral flow testing is in full swing and we are currently testing staff 2 times per week and students when they return to school. Following the latest government guidance, students will not be tested on a weekly basis. You will have also seen in the news this week that the lateral flow testing for close contacts has been withdrawn in schools. Guidance from the Department for Education seemed to be conflicting with the track and trace advice from Public Health England, hence the withdrawal of testing. We have been providing regular updates on our social media regarding testing.

It has been a challenging few weeks since being back after the Christmas break, certainly in terms of staffing. There have been a number of staff who have had to self-isolate due to testing positive for Covid 19 or having to self-isolate if they have been named as a close contact. This has put a strain on our staffing levels. I am proud to say that our staff team have really pulled together to ensure that school is well run and that students are kept as safe as possible in school. Many staff have stepped into unfamiliar roles but have excelled along the way.

As we have seen on the national news recently, the number of positive Covid 19 cases are high and we have seen the very real threat that the virus presents amongst our school community. We must remain as vigilant as ever to keep everybody safe. Please be assured that we are doing everything that we possibly can to keep our school community as safe as possible. As part of our ongoing risk-assessment in school, we have significantly increased the amount of cleaning on site throughout the day. The 'bubbles' are cleaned several times per day, as are the communal areas of the school, such as the toilet areas. Everybody is encouraged to wear a mask in public areas and we have taken steps to ensure students have well-ventilated and spacious areas to work in. This is in addition to our social-distancing and regular hand-washing protocols.

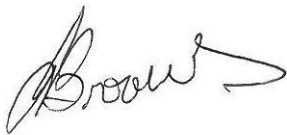
The quality of education that we are delivering to our students is second to none. Teachers are constantly reflecting on how to improve lessons to keep students engaged at all times. I have been privileged to witness this first hand this week. I particularly like the online tutor time at the start of each day. Support staff have done an incredible job both in school and online. Your positive feedback regarding our live lessons and quality of provision is very welcome and appreciated. I am extremely proud of what we are currently offering to our students in such challenging times.



Could I please ask that you do everything that you possibly can to keep your children engaged with their learning? It helps to keep a routine and also from a well-being point of view, in keeping some normality and purpose. We will be maintaining regular contact and will follow up where we can see that students are not engaging with their learning. I have found over the years that school and parents / carers working in harmony is the best combination for young people. Thank you for your ongoing and valuable support.

The Maplewell family has come together to make things as good as we could possibly be at present. I know that these are anxious times for us all, but we will do everything that we can to support our school community. Please do not hesitate in contacting us for further support or advice.

Stay safe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Brooks', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason Brooks
Headteacher