

Maiden Beech Academy

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Dear new parents,

IMPORTANT: TRANSITION TO MAIDEN BEECH ACADEMY – SEPTEMBER 2020

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

It was lovely to catch up with many of you, albeit virtually, via the recent Zoom meetings, which I hope you found informative and helpful. It was lovely to see you and your children, and I very much look forward to meeting you all in person in due course. The PowerPoint presentation has now been uploaded to the Academy website.

As promised, I wanted to write to you again before the end of the school year to ensure that you are well informed about our plans for September. I would also advise you to check the Maiden Beech Academy website throughout the summer break, for further updates and information in these constantly changing times. The website can be accessed at www.maidenbeech.net and key updates will be posted on the homepage.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the *Maiden Beech Academy Information Update*. This important booklet covers all aspects of school life and will hopefully answer any further questions you might have about daily life at the school. We would recommend that you read this through carefully ahead of your son or daughter joining the school; however, please be aware that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the information may be revised and updated to reflect the recommendations from any future guidance.

TRANSITION UPDATE

We have now completed our virtual meetings with our first school colleagues and have all the necessary information to support the successful transition of your son or daughter to middle school.

A copy of the Year 4 transition booklet can be downloaded from the school website. This is an optional activity for your son or daughter to complete, and it would be great to see their booklets on the induction days (see below).

Data collection sheets: We still have a few data collection sheets outstanding. It is essential that these are completed and returned to us as soon as possible, so we can add this important information on our database. A PDF version of the sheet is available on the school website – ‘Useful Information’ – ‘Transition’ for you to download.

Tutor Groups

On the first induction day, your child will be told which tutor group they are in and who their tutor will be – exciting times! ***Please reassure your son or daughter that he or she will be with at least one of their friends mentioned on the ‘Moving to Middle School’ form.***

I can now confirm that the Year 5 tutor team is:

- 5GK: Mrs Kennett – our new English/maths teacher
- 5JF: Mr Flatt – design technology subject leader
- 5JR: Mrs Robson – our new maths teacher
- 5LG: Mrs Breach-Greer – science teacher



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INDUCTION DAYS

Usually, we have our two induction days in the first week of July; however, this has not been possible this year because of the current situation. Instead, we will have two induction days at the beginning of the school year on **Friday 4th September** and **Monday 7th September**. On these days, our new Year 5 pupils will be the only children in school, giving them a chance to become familiar with the school site and the daily routines before the rest of the children return on Tuesday 8th September to begin the new academic year.

Key information about the induction days:

- **Please bring you son and daughter into school between 8:30 and 9:00 AM.** You will be greeted by staff, who will explain where your son or daughter needs to go.
- The children can wear **non-school uniform**, including trainers, on both days, as some of the activities will be practical.
- Your son or daughter will need to bring **a packed lunch and break time snack/drink** to school as our catering facilities will not be open until the 8th September.
- **Parents will need to bring their children to school on both days** as school transport will not be operating until Tuesday 8th September. Parents/children can access the school site from either the Lyme Road or Bushfield Road entrances. Parents should bring their son or daughter to the main entrance/reception, adhering to social distancing guidance, and we will direct the children where to go. **From Tuesday 8th September, children should be dropped off at either entrance and walk on to the school site unaccompanied** to limit the number of people, particularly adults, on site at any one time.
- **Children should also bring the following equipment with them on both days:**
 - A pencil case containing a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber etc, for their own personal use
- **Each tutor group will be allocated a Learning Support Assistant** who will help the children navigate the site and learn the various daily routines. This member of staff will remain with the group for at least the first full week at school to provide ongoing support.

During the two days, the children will have a chance to get to know their tutor and the other children in their tutor group. The emphasis is on making new friends. The children will complete a number of tutor-led activities and will have lessons led by myself, Mrs Wood, Deputy Head, and Mrs Petts, Assistant Head.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

From Tuesday 8th September, all children will attend school in full school uniform

Jazziez, our uniform provider, have been on site every Friday to meet with parents and take orders for uniform for our new intake. Details of uniform requirements can be found on the school website.

Representatives from Jazziez have kindly agreed to be at the school on the following Fridays and will be either based in the Drama Room or outside on the grassed area in front of the school:

Friday	Time
17 th July	11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
14 th August	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
21 st August	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
28 th August	11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
4 th September	11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

We are very grateful to Jazziez for being so accommodating. The company have agreed to stay until 6:00 PM on three occasions to allow parents who are working to visit the school to purchase uniform.

Please remember that uniform can also be purchased online at:

www.jazziez.co.uk

www.myclothing.com/

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS

Details of term dates, holidays and INSET days can be found on the website in the 'Useful Information' section – here is a summary of key dates for the autumn term:

Wednesday 2nd September: INSET day – school closed to children

Thursday 3rd September: INSET day – school closed to children

Friday 4th September: Induction Day 1 – school open to new Year 5 children only

Monday 7th September: Induction Day 2 – school open to new Year 5 children only

Tuesday 8th September: Start of the school year for children in years 6, 7 and 8

Monday 2nd November: INSET day – school closed to children

REOPENING IN SEPTEMBER – PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

The Government recently announced that it expects all pupils, in all year groups, to return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term. In order to ensure that both children and staff are kept as safe as possible, we have produced a plan to mitigate potential risks and revised our COVID-19 risk assessment – both documents will be shared on the school website for reference.

Unfortunately, for at least the first half of the autumn term, we will have to adapt and there will be a new 'normal' to help keep everyone as safe as possible. Below is a summary of the key points:

- **Prevention measures** to help stop the spread of infection will continue to be implemented:
 - Children will wash their hands thoroughly throughout the school day
 - Respiratory hygiene: Children will be reminded on a daily basis of the importance of the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
 - Enhanced cleaning: the school site will be cleaned throughout the school day.
- **Children will be part of the following social bubbles** and will have limited contact with children from other bubbles:
 - The year group bubble: Year 5 children will have a designated outside play area and toilet facilities.
 - The tutor group bubble: the children will spend most of the school day within this specific social group
 - Maths group/games group bubbles: children will mix with members of another Year 5 group for maths and games lessons.
- **Movement around the school:** As Maiden Beech Academy operates a secondary school approach to the curriculum, ie children from Year 5 upward move every lesson to a different room with a different teacher, we have changed our approach in September with staff rather than children moving between lessons and children remaining in their tutor base for the majority of lessons, with the following exceptions:
 - Music and drama: the majority of these lessons will take place in the music room.
 - PE/games: these will be based in the Hall or outside. **If children have PE or games, they can wear their PE kit to school and throughout the day to avoid the need to change.**
 - Design technology lessons: These will either take place in the tutor base or the Food Technology Room.
 - Computing: these will either take place in the Technology Suite or Room 9 (a second computer room equipped with 30+ PCs)
- **Snacks and lunch will be eaten in tutor bases:** Food can be purchased from the canteen using the online payment system (parents will receive further information regarding this in September) and taken back to tutor rooms to eat.
- **Assemblies** will take place virtually during tutorial time to avoid too many people coming together in the same place at the same time. This may change after half-term when we hope to be able to offer year group assemblies once more.

- **Timings of the school day:** these have been temporarily amended to reduce the number of children moving around the site at a given time and to allow staggered timings for break time, lunch and leaving at the end of the school day:
 - 8:45 AM: Children arrive at school and go straight to their tutor bases
Children should not arrive on site before this time
 - 8:55 AM: Registration
 - 9:00 AM: Lesson 1
 - 9:55 AM: Lesson 2
 - 10:50 AM: Break
 - 11:30 AM: Lesson 3
 - 12:30 PM: Lesson 4
 - 1:00 PM: Year 5 and Year 6 children will have lunch
 - 1:45 PM: Year 5 and Year 6 reading and activities in tutor room
 - 2:15 PM: Registration and tutorial
 - 2:30 PM: Lesson 5
 - 3:15 PM: **Year 5 children and children in Years 6, 7 and 8 with siblings in Year 5 will leave first. Please make arrangements to collect your son or daughter at 3:15 PM.**
 - 3:30 PM: End of the school day. All children travelling on school transport will leave at this time.
- **Parental drop off/pick up:** From Tuesday 8th September, we ask that parents drop children off at either the Lyme Road or Bushfield Road entrances to avoid coming on site. Staff will be on duty to supervise the arrival and departure of the children.

THE NEW MAIDEN BEECH CURRICULUM

Over the past few months we have been working with Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust (BTCT) to review and revise our curriculum offer.

I am pleased and excited to share that from September we will move to a two-week timetable cycle, which will enable us to offer a broader curriculum to all children and even more specialist teaching to Year 5 and 6. We will also be expanding from 15 to 16 tutor groups – details below:

The headlines for our revised model are:

- An hour of drama for all year groups – as requested by the children
- Specialist history and geography teaching in Year 5 and 6
- The introduction of design technology in Year 5
- The introduction of a mixed aged enrichment programme – to commence after half term at the earliest
- The continuation of PSHCEE as a discrete subject

The Maiden Beech Academy Curriculum 2020/21

Figures in the table below refer to taught hours per fortnight

Subject	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Maths	12	12	8	8
English	12	12	8	8
Science	5	5	6	6
Geography	1	1	3	3
History	1	1	3	3
DT	2	2	3	3
Music	2	2	2	2
Art	2	2	2	2
BEP	2	2	2	2
Computing	2	2	2	2
French	2	2	4	4
PE	2	2	2	2
Games	2	2	2	2
Drama	1	1	1	1
PSHCEE	1	1	1	1
Enrichment	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	50	50	50	50

However, because of the COVID-19 situation, the delivery and content of the curriculum in certain subjects maybe different because of the preventative measures we have put in place – see previous page.

FOOD 4 THOUGHT CATERING SERVICE

During the week beginning 7th September, all Year 4 parents who do not already have a Parent Portal login will be sent a letter with their sign-up details. Parents will then be able to put credit onto their child's Food 4 Thought account via our online system. We have made arrangements for those parents who would like their child to purchase food during the first week of term, if they do not already have a Portal login. On Monday 7th September, please send your child in with cash or a cheque made payable to Maiden Beech Academy. Your child's tutor will have been allocated a time to take their group to the Finance Office to pay this money in. Food will be available from Food 4 Thought from Tuesday 8th September.

CHICS MUSIC SERVICE AND PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS

Due to the current situation, peripatetic music lessons provided by CHICS Music, will not take place before October half term at the earliest. However, if parents would like to contact music teachers directly, to arrange private tuition, we would be more than happy to share contact details.

Hopefully, this letter and the information in the update booklet helps answer any further questions you might have about transition and life at Maiden Beech Academy. Please do check our website regularly for any further updates throughout the summer break.

Stay safe and enjoy the summer holidays. We are very much looking forward to meeting you and your children in September and working in partnership with you in the future.

Kind regards



Mr Carl Winch
Head teacher