

# Maiden Beech Academy

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Headteacher: Carl Winch BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE AND INFORMATION - PLEASE READ**

I hope you and your children are all safe and well – we are still missing you all very much.

### **REOPENING IN SEPTEMBER 2020**

Last week, we received guidance from the Government regarding the reopening of schools in September 2020. We are using this guidance to produce a detailed plan on how we can expand our provision safely to all children. Once completed this plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees and a final version shared via the Parent Portal and school website. As part of our planning, we will review and revise our current risk assessment to ensure all members of the school community are kept as safe as possible. As stated above, **the current expectation is that all children in all year groups will return to school.**

Dates, including INSET days, for the academic year 2020/21 have now been finalised, and this information has been shared via the Portal and website.

In order to provide an induction programme for the new children joining the Academy, we have decided that the academic year for years 6, 7 and 8 will start on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September** rather than Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September – see details below:

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September: INSET day – school closed to pupils**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: INSET day – school closed to pupils**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September: Induction Day 1 – school open to new Year 5 children only**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September: Induction Day 2 – school open to new Year 5 children only**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September: Start of the school year for children in years 6, 7 and 8**

***At the moment, we expect the children to attend school in school uniform from September – please see information below re: purchasing uniform for the new academic year.***

### **YEAR 8: FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY – AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND SOME TIME IN SCHOOL**

We are very conscious that with the lockdown and the fact that the school had to close following a suspected case of COVID-19 in March that our Year 8 children have had neither the opportunity to say 'good bye' to staff and other members of the tutor group nor proper closure before leaving the school.

Sadly, the usual activities that take place at this time of year for our leavers – the residential, Prom and Leavers' Service – have been cancelled; however, we would like to invite the children back on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July** – the last day of term- to spend some time together in their tutor groups. Each group will have a short assembly/presentation and then will have some time together on the school field (weather permitting) where it will be easier to social distance appropriately.

The children are invited in at the following times and children in 8CST and 8JF are welcome to bring in a packed lunch, as their sessions span lunch time:



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



CHARTER STANDARD SCHOOLS



**8NB:** 9:30 – 11:30 AM

**8CST:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**8JF:** 12:30 – 2:30 PM

**8LG:** 2:00 – 4:00 PM

**Mr Gardner, Head teacher of Wadham School, or Mrs Coombe, Deputy Head teacher, will visit each of the sessions to meet the Year 8 children and give a short presentation about the transition to Wadham.**

We really hope that the majority of Year 8 can attend school on this day, so we can spend some time with them before they leave us.

In order to help us plan ahead, if you would like your son or daughter to attend school at the allocated time on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, please can you complete the brief survey below, so we have an idea of the number of children attending each session.

**Link to survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CRX2RYQ>

Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents in on this day as this would contravene current guidance regarding additional adults on site.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Whilst not confirmed, **it is very likely that the children will attend school in September 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. We would now like to expand this provision for all parents wishing to purchase uniform for the new school year.

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:

| <b>Friday</b>             | <b>Time</b>         |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> July     | 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> July     | 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> August   | 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> August   | 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> August   | 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 four 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](http://www.jazziez.co.uk)

[www.myclothing.com/](http://www.myclothing.com/)

### **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     |

### **YEAR 8: MOVE FROM THREE TO FOUR TUTOR GROUPS FROM SEPTEMBER**

Unfortunately, last year we had to reduce from four to three tutor groups in current Year 7 because of financial constraints; however, I am pleased to announce that, with support from BTCT, we can move back to four tutor groups in this year group commencing in September. This has the positive effect of reducing class sizes to an average of 23 pupils per group.

Whilst the majority of children will remain in the same class with the same tutor, this has given us the opportunity to review group composition and make some changes ahead of the new academic year. Rest assured, careful consideration has been given to ensuring all children are with a friend; please reassure your son or daughter that there is nothing to worry about!

### **ONLINE SAFETY AND THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

Whilst the internet has many positive uses and educational, particularly in terms of finding and retrieving useful information, it is also a potential risk, especially the use of social media, if not monitored carefully with the right safeguards in place. Unfortunately, we have been made aware that there have been some incidents recently online, particularly on Instagram, where adults posing as children have tried to access (and in some cases have been given access) children's personal profiles

and/or group chats. It is essential that parents monitor their son or daughter's online activity as robustly as possible using the top tips below as a guide.

There is some very useful information produced by the NSPCC to help parents tackle this issue at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>. Below are some top tips that we would urge all parents to read and action:

#### **Top tips to staying safe online**

- Set up appropriate parental controls on your child's devices – you can get further information about setting up the controls on specific devices at [www.saferinternet.org.uk/](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/)
- Discuss and check your child's privacy settings with them
- Enforce the golden rule: don't 'friend' anyone online that you do not know well in 'real life.'
- Encourage your child to use the internet openly in a supervised environment e.g. in the lounge at home rather than in their bedroom alone. Discuss what they are doing with them.
- Tell your child to report any online behaviour that worries them and/or makes them feel uncomfortable
- Use Net Aware to set up appropriate controls for different apps [www.net-aware.org.uk/](http://www.net-aware.org.uk/)
- Use content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content
- Plan and decide what time of the day your child can access the internet and for how long.
- Carefully manage which apps you child can download to their device – remember, most children at Maiden Beech are under 13 and, therefore, should not be on apps such as Instagram, SnapChat etc.

If you have any concerns re: your son or daughter's online behaviour or need help in setting up the right controls, please don't hesitate to contact me, as Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or Mrs Stubbins, Deputy DSL, via the school, and we will do all we can to help and advise you.

#### **SUMMER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS**

At present, as restrictions are eased, **we are not planning to operate any childcare provision during the summer holidays.**

In order to bring Year 8 back safely, **the term will end a day early on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July; therefore, the school will only be open to Year 8 children on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July.**

***For the four-week period Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August, the school will be closed to provide adequate time to prepare for the new year. Please note, phone and email messages will not be picked up until Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August.***

***It is essential that parents regularly check the Parent Portal and/or school website from this date for any updates and further guidance about the new school year***

#### **INFORMATION UPDATE BOOKLET FOR PARENTS**

We are currently revising and updating the *Maiden Beech Information Update* booklet for parents, which will be shared before the end of term via the Parent Portal and website. This document will include further important information about day-to-day routines and procedures; we advise parents to download and read a copy before the start of the new school year.

#### **PE KITS/PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

We still have a number of PE kits, coats, school bags and other personal belongings onsite. Parents and children are welcome to come into school to collect these before the summer holiday. It would be helpful if you could phone reception and inform the receptionist when you plan to visit, and please remember that the only access point to the school building is the main entrance via reception.

I will continue to keep in touch as plans become clearer and of course if things change – please get into the habit of checking the Parent Portal regularly.

In the meantime, I would like to send you all my warmest wishes to you and your families at this time.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the initials 'C.M.' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Mr Carl Winch  
Head teacher