



10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Maharishi School! I hope that you and your family have remained safe and well over the summer break and that your child has begun to settle back into school. Please find below some important and useful information for the new school year.

### **Welcome to new students**

Summer school provided an opportunity for some of our new year 7's to familiarise themselves with the secondary phase building and get to know some of our secondary staff. All year 7 pupils are now settling in well and getting used to the new routines at the secondary site. This week our new Reception pupils began a staggered start to their journey with us with afternoon sessions - next week they will be building up to staying for lunch and having full days with us in school. This week we have also welcomed a small number of new students to other year groups within our school community.

### **Welcome to new staff**

This year we have been joined by Señora Franco, our new Spanish teacher; Mrs Keefe has joined our secondary phase teaching assistant team and Miss Moss has joined our primary phase teaching assistant team.

### **Consciousness-based Education**

Our new reception pupils have learnt Word of Wisdom (WoW) and are becoming familiar with how to self-pulse read. Our year 6 pupils are about to learn Transcendental Meditation (TM) for the first time and we look forward to hearing all about their TM weekend when we see them again next week.

At the primary site, all non-essential activity ceases during TM/WoW; this enables the whole site to become silent and creates a more cohesive experience for pupils and staff. From Monday, we will do the same at the secondary site - therefore from 9:05 - 9:30/3:35 - 4:00 (3:05 - 3:30 on Fridays) at the secondary site and from 9:25 - 9:40/3:15 - 3:30 at the primary site the gate will remain closed except for emergencies. If pupils arrive late between these times they will not be allowed onto the school site until TM/WoW has finished. If your child does arrive late to school, please ring the bell (outside of TM/WoW hours) and send him/her through the gate. For the time being, we ask that parents do not enter the school site unless it is an emergency.

**COVID-19** Regarding COVID restrictions and the latest government guidance, pupils and staff are no longer required to social distance or wear face coverings. We will, however, recommend

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that secondary phase pupils wear face coverings on the school minibus and when being transported by coach for PE lessons. If we experience an outbreak within school, or there is an increase in COVID cases locally, we may increase our measures as advised by Public Health England. Where possible, we will continue to meet with parents online or outdoors when the weather allows.

### Extra-curricular activities

We hope to be able to reintroduce our primary phase after-school clubs soon and will let you know when we are able to get this up and running again. If any of our parents can offer a skill or have expertise in an area that our pupils would benefit from, and are willing to volunteer (subject to a satisfactory DBS), please let us know.

We are finally able to recommence the Duke of Edinburgh award programme. Year 11 will be doing their Bronze expeditions this half term. Year 10 pupils are finishing off their sections and we are hoping to welcome our current year 9's to start on their Bronze award journey this term. Secondary phase Dungeons and Dragons sessions will be starting up again this half term, with more information coming soon.

### Careers Education

As part of the school Careers programme, we will be offering a Wellbeing Champions course for interested pupils in the secondary phase. More details will follow shortly.

This term, years 10 and 11 will be receiving relevant information about education after GCSEs - please look out for information about open days and taster sessions at colleges. Please contact Ms Ingram if you have any questions.

### Class Dojo

In all primary phase classes, we will be using Class Dojo for communication between teachers, teaching assistants and parents. Class Dojo is an online platform that provides an easy way for teachers to send reminders to parents - eg. 'Remember to bring your swimming kit on Friday' - to give details of weekly homework or to let parents know what the class has been learning. Parents can also use this platform to pass on information to teachers - eg. 'My child didn't sleep well last night. Please could you keep an eye on him?'. Please continue to contact the school office to report any absences or for any formal communication.

Please note that messages will only be read between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm and it may not always be possible for staff to respond the same day. All parents should have an invitation to join Class Dojo by the end of next week.

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### Uniform

Please make sure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform. Please follow the link for more information:

<https://maharishischool.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Dress-Code-and-Appearance-Policy.pdf>

Primary parents may be contacted by their child's class teacher via Class Dojo if incorrect school uniform is worn. At the secondary phase, incorrect uniform will be discussed directly with the pupils. Please support us to improve and maintain our uniform standards. As Maharishi says in his Principles of Teaching, "...As teachers, we should maintain high standards of orderliness for everything that children do".

### Term-time holidays

Please remember that we do not authorise term-time holidays, except in exceptional circumstances. Please contact me in advance of booking a term-time holiday to discuss whether the circumstances would be considered as 'exceptional' as a penalty notice may be issued by the local authority if an unauthorised holiday is taken. When booking a holiday, please remember that we generally have a longer summer holiday than most other schools. Prices are often cheaper during this time, so please try to book family holidays outside of term-time.

### Parents Evenings

The flexibility of last year's online appointments was very positive for the majority of people, therefore we will be continuing with online parents evenings for the time being.

Primary parents evenings will take place in the week beginning Monday 18 October and Monday 28 March. Secondary parents evenings will take place in the week beginning Monday 13 December and Monday 28 March. An electronic sign-up email will be sent to you nearer to the time.

That's all for now. Please get in touch if you have any questions

With warm wishes

Lisa Edwards

Being happy is of the utmost importance. Success in anything is through happiness. Whatever we put our attention on will grow stronger in our life.  
Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

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