

Introduction from Mr R Owen, Headteacher

Welcome to our May Newsletter. This term, we are all really getting back into the routine of regular school life on site. Of course, we are working hard to make sure all COVID-19 safety rules are applied at all times and everyone remains safe.

COVID-19 Safety

Thank you to all parents and guardians who are ensuring students continue to take their LFD COVID-19 tests at home. Now is not the time to let our guard down and I hope that we are all continuing to take the responsibility of reducing infection rates very seriously by our actions such as social distancing, hand washing (following the COVID-19 hand washing guidance), wearing face coverings and following the procedure for all students completing LFD tests on Mondays and Thursdays as explained. We want to keep infection rates down so we can keep everyone safe and also ensure our students' education is not disrupted.

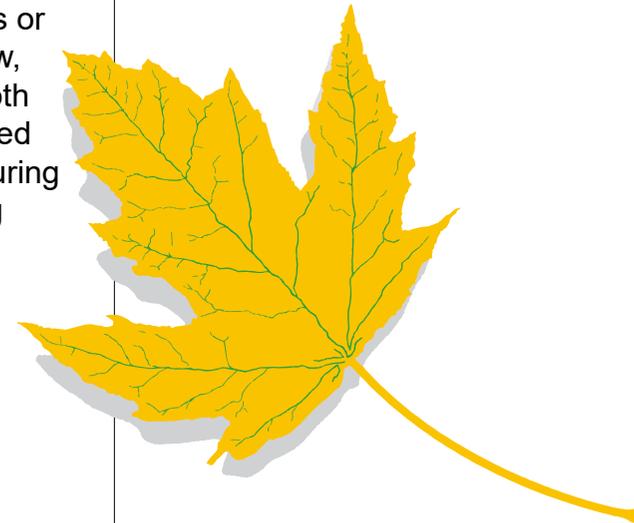
Our Curriculum

There is a lot of really exciting planning going on behind the scenes to ensure that next academic year allows us to build upon all the high standards we are so proud of. A lot of work is going into a review of our curriculum so that we can ensure students really build relevant knowledge and are able to retain it and apply it. By this, I don't just mean the knowledge needed to pass exams (essential though this is) but the knowledge needed to equip students for life beyond school so that they have purpose, ambition, drive and self-confidence. This, I believe, is especially relevant after the disruption to young people's lives over the last 12 months or so. As we reevaluate and build our new, exciting curriculum, we will ensure both students and parents are kept informed so that we can work together on ensuring the best possible future for our young people.

Our New Build

With everything else that has been happening this year (it has been a rather busy year!), in the background our exciting new build programme has been forging ahead. Amazingly, we are close to a completion date for our brand new, three story building which contains 13 new classrooms and a new Learning Resource Area. It really is so exciting, and the building is looking incredible.

Here is just
a small preview:





Introduction - Cont.



In addition to the new building, our restaurant extension has started and the new extension is already taking shape. We will soon be starting the build process for a new Food room as well as a new Science Lab. By September, we will have a brand new 3G surface and we will also have re-surfaced our playgrounds. This is of course in addition to the amazing state of the art 6th Form study area completed last summer, the brand-new classrooms in D and E block and the new toilets and heating system completed in recent years. All of this has been funded by the Local Authority and by the Government as they have wanted to invest in a school that ensures the best quality for its students.

Maplesden now has an environment that will be the envy of schools across Maidstone! We are so proud of this!

I do hope you find the information below useful and that you are all safe and well. I look forward to working with you all on an exciting new future for our students and the school.

Best wishes

Mr R Owen
Headteacher



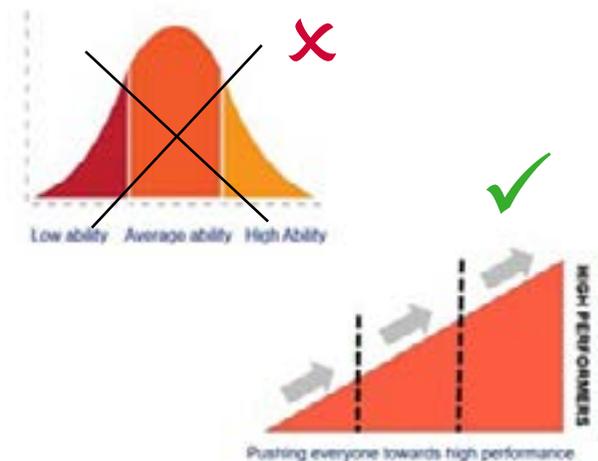
High Performance Learning

We aspire to become a World Class School and staff at The Maplesden Noakes School are working to banish the traditional ability bell curve. High Performance Learning is based on the premise that intelligence is elastic and that all students can perform to a high standard:

We want to engage all parents in ensuring that their child makes outstanding progress, so if you could continue to promote positive study habits and a “can do” mindset, that would be extremely helpful! The “hard working” ethic can be broken down into three main components:

1. **Practice:** “Practice makes perfect” turns out to be absolutely the case. The American psychologist Daniel Levitin famously suggested that it takes 10,000 hours to make an expert. Children will only master concepts such as meta-thinking, linking, analysing, creating and realising if they have a chance to practise them frequently. Reinforcing the “practice, practice, practice” message can only be a good thing!
2. **Perseverance:** The ability to keep going when the work is not so interesting is an important discipline and those who only become engaged when the learning is easy or fun will not become high performers. You can develop perseverance, but it comes more naturally to some than others. Seeing the benefits and rewards of perseverance can be a motivator, so make sure you reward your child’s persistence when you spot it! Perseverance is a hot topic now in global education – we seem to have woken up to its importance! It is linked to intellectual confidence, motivation and attainable goals. The task now is to help all students make perseverance a reality.

3. **Resilience:** We know from the life stories of successful adults that their lives were rarely problem-free and that the ability to bounce back was a critical factor in their eventual success. Students need to understand that setbacks are a natural part of progress and that developing the ability to be resilient is critical to long-term success. Students need to be aware that what you do and how you react when you fail the first time is more important in determining success than the ability to get it right first time. Resilience is about bouncing back when meeting setbacks: “Never, ever give up!”.



Miss J Usher

Senior Deputy Headteacher



Year 8

**Year 8
Maths Club
has arrived!**

We will be using Mathematics to create games, quizzes, crafts and more. Last time we made flexi-hexagons which can be used for revision guides and games (see images).

Maths Club is every Tuesday at the top of F Block from 2.50pm – 3.50pm. it is for all abilities and is a chance to stretch, challenge and be creative all whilst discovering areas of Mathematics you may not get to cover in lesson.

See you there!

Mr R Ward
Teacher of Maths

