



MAGHULL HIGH SCHOOL

SPECIALIST ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

All to: Aspire, Achieve, Enjoy

Headteacher: Ms D Aspinall

Friday 18 September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

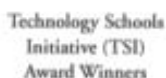
Thank you for your continued support in getting all students back into school safely over the past couple of weeks. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all students to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all students catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a student or member of staff is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

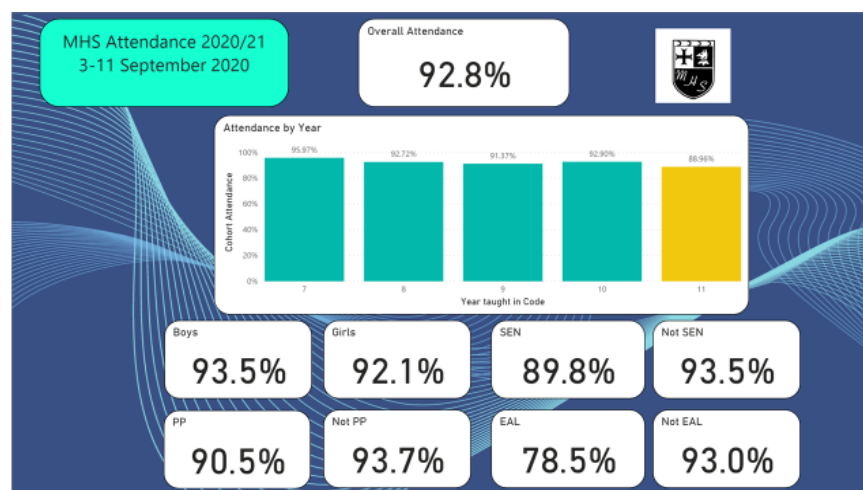
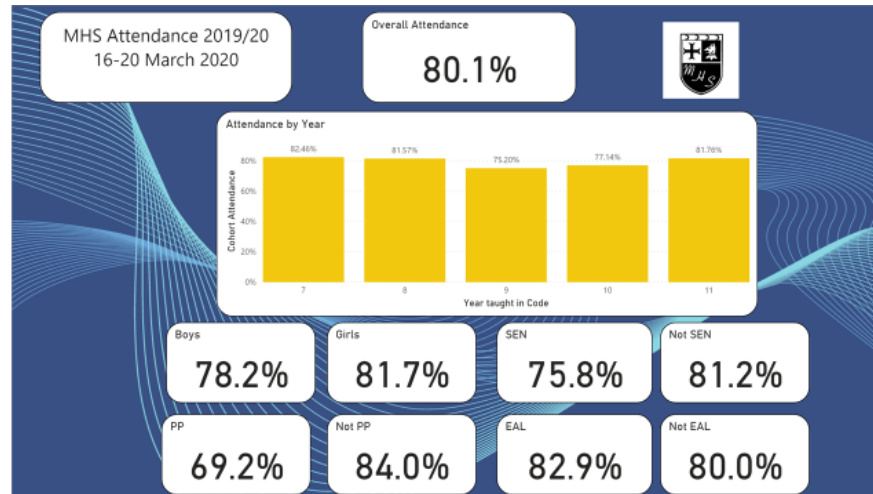
That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our governors / trustees.

<p>School reopening</p>	<p>The school is open every day, with start and end timings remaining the same for all students in years 7-13. Students follow their full timetable in all subjects with their specialist teachers. Break time and lunch time are staggered and areas of recreation zoned for students with staff on duty to support the routines. Extra-curricular activities are continuing with students remaining in year group bubbles.</p> <p>The school campus has been zoned to assist social distancing for each year group. Sanitising stations are positioned at entrances and exits, communal areas and in all classrooms. Face coverings in communal indoor areas are compulsory and all areas are cleaned several times during the school day.</p> <p>In the event of a confirmed positive case we will work with the Department for Education, Public Health England and Sefton Council. Parents and staff will be kept fully informed and receive written communication that clarifies if they are either a close contact and should isolate for 14 days or not a close contact and can still attend school.</p> <p>The school's risk assessment is reviewed every two weeks and is available on the school's website:</p> <p>Click here to download School Risk Assessment</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Attendance on the return to school in September is significantly higher than in March prior to school closure. Attendance since the return is 92.8% across all year group up from 80.1% in March.</p>

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September (SEND - 89.8% Sept -75.8 % March, PP - 90.5% Sept 69.2% March). Year group analysis highlights that attendance of students in KS3 is higher in both March and September and that Y11 students have the least variation between March and September with only 7.2% fewer students attending prior to closure.



The school's 'Covid-19 Related Pupil Absence - A Quick Reference Guide for Parents' is available on our school website.

[Click here to download](#)

Coverage of the curriculum

All year groups follow their normal timetable, where an ambitious curriculum is taught within a zoned environment. Students move to specialist areas for certain lessons such as drama, PE, music and IT. Clear seating plans are in place in classrooms, with teaching taking place from the front of the room.

Teaching assistants are deployed to support year group zones. All SEND support and EHCP learners are assigned a key worker from the inclusion team.

Subject leaders have designed diagnostic baseline assessments to build, as quickly as possible, a picture of each student's immediate needs. We have integrated this internal diagnostic assessment window into our assessment calendar to inform ongoing curriculum planning and appropriate interventions.

Remote learning March - July 2020

The school remained open for the children of critical key workers throughout the summer term.

From March to July, all students accessed their curriculum through Firefly, MS Teams/Zoom. Our students completed over fifteen thousand lessons remotely through Firefly and earned over eleven thousand virtual rewards points. Teachers supported students directly via email where necessary and parents met form tutors virtually to discuss students' progress across all subjects in July.

	<p>We welcomed many of our students across all year groups back into school for socially distanced face-to-face contact, to ensure that we were all best placed to move forward positively from the first day back in September.</p> <p>Teaching and support staff responded to parent and student emails and made telephone calls to support and safeguard the wellbeing of our students and maintain contact with our families.</p> <p>In addition to the DfE laptop provision, over fifty school devices were loaned to students to access remote learning.</p> <p>School governors, senior and middle leaders, teaching and support staff and external agencies continued to meet virtually using Zoom and/or MS Teams, as appropriate.</p>
<p>Remote learning in the future</p>	<p>Students who are absent or isolating access the curriculum online through the school's virtual learning environment, Firefly. Teaching and support staff will use the school email system and MS Teams to ensure regular contact is made with students to support their learning and assess progress made.</p> <p>The inclusive support team will be deployed to support students and their families via email, phone call and MS Teams. This will allow swift trouble shooting of any SEND concerns whilst working remotely, including, for example, supplying paper based work and the deployment and signposting of appropriate agencies.</p> <p>The plan for the possibility of a local lockdown to ensure continuity of high-quality education is available on the school's website:</p> <p>Local lockdown information</p> <p>The plan outlines what the 4 'tiers of restriction' will mean for our school and the actions we will take for each one.</p>
<p>Mental health and wellbeing</p>	<p>All students on return to school are engaging in four hours of the 'Reconnect Curriculum'. This curriculum gives them an opportunity, in a supportive and empathetic environment, to reflect on their own experience throughout the pandemic, as well as to consider the national and global impacts.</p> <p>The emphasis is on finding the positives and setting goals for moving forward positively. These sessions are delivered as part of our wider personal development curriculum, which also encompasses relationship, sex and health education.</p> <p>Throughout lockdown, our staff completed many online training courses to support student wellbeing and since our return, have completed their annual safeguarding training, which has a particular emphasis on mental health. They are keenly aware of the signs and indicators that a student may be struggling with challenges and are clear on how to refer concerns and seek appropriate support when needed.</p> <p>Our students have also received their first safeguarding assembly of the year, with the aim of keeping them safe in school, in the community and online. Our pastoral support, inclusive support and Phoenix Centre teams continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the wellbeing of our children and young people is at the forefront of everything we do.</p> <p>Working alongside students with additional needs and their families, bespoke packages of support have been implemented to accommodate a graduated and successful return to school for a small cohort of students.</p>

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.