

MADANI SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Honesty | Excellence | Accountability | Respect | Tolerance

14th July 2020 | 23 Dhul Qa'ada 1441 AH

Assalamu Alaykum Dear Parents/ Carers and Students,

UPDATES: Preparation for the new academic year 2020 – 2021

I pray you are all well and in good health.

Looking back

This has been a challenging year for all concerned, to different extents, with some who have lost livelihoods and even lost ones. We know how hard this has been for all of our teachers, students and our families. It is also sad that students did not get to say goodbye to their friends and teachers before the summer and our graduating students in particular did not get their proper farewell or celebration of their time at Madani. This is something that we are looking to address in the new year when it is safe to do so, with a special celebratory evening.

Madani is a special place because of our learning community that can support each other in times like this. It is a learning community of compassion and hope that was founded upon the notion that learning can be different through a prism of our ethos **HEART** values and focus on what matters – you our learning community!

Looking forwards

We have learnt a lot in lockdown about how to deliver virtual education, and families and staff have been outstanding, but young people need the routine of normal school life and they also need to see their friends and teachers. Therefore, we are working tirelessly to start to transition back to school in September. The government has made attendance compulsory unless there is a statutory reason for children to be absent and we will do everything we can to accommodate a phased return if it is safe to do so.

As you may be aware, the Government published its guidance for reopening schools on 2nd July. This has assisted in refining our planning for the new academic year and highlighted some constraints we have with a vastly limited site. We have contacted the authorities for additional support and guidance to assist with the process. Whilst all plans remain subject to change based on the latest guidance and local circumstances, we are now in a position to update you in this letter on some of the key updates for the summer break and the new academic year.

Key dates

- **Tuesday 11th August** - Final decision to be made by the Department for Education regarding September reopening of schools and in particular in the context of local lockdown. The Senior Leadership Team will refine plans based on this, in advance of further discussions the following week.
- **Monday 17th August** - Leadership Team will be in school this week to finalise plans for the new academic year to present to the Governing Body and subject to approval share with stakeholders.
- **Thursday 20th August** - GCSE Results Day (See attached letter detailing arrangements)
- **Monday 24th August** - Staff INSET Training Week
- **Monday 31st August** - Bank Holiday Monday
- **Tuesday 1st September** - Week 1 arrangements (See below). Please note that all city schools have moved the beginning of the year to the start of September in line with national guidance.
- **Monday 7th September** - Future plans to be confirmed and shared

Week 1 arrangements (Tuesday 1st September – Friday 4th September)



Head of Schools Mr Riyaz Laher | Deputy Head Mr I Patel | Deputy Head Mr R Maghrabi | Business Manager Ms N Radford

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Madani Schools Federation, Evington Valley Road, Leicester LE5 5LL

We're here to learn

During week 1, there will be a staggered return to school as detailed below. Each day/s during this week will focus on the needs of the particular year group/s and reacclimatising to learning and the high expectations of students at the schools.

- Tuesday 1st September - Year 7 only
- Wednesday 2nd September – Year 7 and Year 8
- Thursday 3rd September – Year 9 and Year 11
- Friday 4th September – Year 10 and Year 11

Future learning

We are truly grateful for all of the efforts that have gone into the last few months of remote learning. We are humbled by what you have done at home to support our students and we look forward to being together again in the new year.

We fully intend to continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum of learning and recreational activities within the constraints of the situation and as staffing permits.

We recognise that there will be learning gaps to be filled when they return and have planned a 'recovery' phase before the main curriculum commences swiftly in the autumn term so that everyone has the chance to catch up and reacclimatise. We will also ensure that there is time devoted to the emotional wellbeing of pupils.

In order to address gaps of learning we have invested significantly in staffing for next year, particularly English, Maths and Science, which will reduce class sizes even more across year groups as much as possible and accelerate learning through students 121 access to Teachers.

Furthermore, we have created an extra lesson at the end of the school day to offer increased intervention particularly for KS4, but also more clubs, access to the Library, ICT suites and enrichment opportunities for every student. This will provide opportunities for not only enrichment but targeted intervention to ensure students are fully supported on their educational journey.

In terms of summer learning, we would like your support to continue this summer as you have during recent months. Included in this correspondence is your child's Knowledge Organiser for the new year and further information below.

Summer learning: Knowledge Organisers and GCSE Preparation

At Madani Schools Federation, we recognise the power of knowledge and believe that students are better able to remember what they have learned in each lesson if they understand how it is linked to the bigger picture of the topic they are studying.

To facilitate this, teachers have created one-page summaries of the key vocabulary, information and concepts, which will help students see the overall learning journey in each subject. In this pack, students from Year 7 to 9 will receive a booklet of knowledge organisers, which they will use to continually retrieve knowledge from previous lessons and ensure they do not forget what they have learned.

As a parent/ carer, you can start to use these knowledge organisers from now to play a powerful role across the curriculum in supporting your child's learning. Please read and follow the guide provided explaining different ways the knowledge organisers can be used in lessons, at home (from this summer to get ahead), and for revision. By encouraging your child to engage with these activities, you will be able to check that they are keeping up with the work set in their lessons and that they are building the knowledge they need to succeed and progress to further study.

Resources such as knowledge organisers, revision activities and booklets based on exam board specifications have also been provided for Year 10 and 11 GCSE students on SharePoint to ensure that they engage with their learning over the summer.

Please visit the school website for the home learning page, links, other websites and subject curriculum overviews. If you have any concerns regarding home learning please email learning@madani.leicester.sch.uk

Assessment

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We want our students to return to school confident that every possible opportunity for continuing their personal journey to fulfilling their potential is explored. Young people demonstrate great and yet often underestimated measures of resilience and are a beacon of the valuable characteristics of adaptation and frequently respond effectively to unforeseen changes.

With high aspirations and a clear end goal in sight, an essential aspect of navigation is establishing a starting point and identifying next steps. As a school, we intend to make sure we have an accurate understanding of starting points for all of our students, enacting our strategies, accordingly, continuing our individualised approach to intervention and support.

During the first half term, we will reacclimatise our students back into student life through a variety of approaches. Our intention is then to reintegrate students into curriculum learning by linking home study and forthcoming projects and areas of study, and to take advantage of opportunities to address gaps in learning at both class and individual level.

Our comprehensive intervention programme will make use of nationally standardised Assessments, Progress Tests, CATs assessments and Subject Baseline Assessments, complimented by low stakes quizzes, activities and strategies to identify our starting points and then adapt our curriculum, approaches and practise to maximise impact.

As we welcome our new Y7 cohort, we will ensure that all information available is used to establish challenging yet achievable targets, Teacher Assessments alongside internal assessments, supported by national data will inform the process.

What we may not be able to go ahead with in September

The government has said that schools can continue to offer breakfast clubs and after-school activities. We are keen to be able to do this because we know how important these activities are. We are considering the government guidance and identifying how we run these activities and indeed all school activities in a way that minimises risk and keeps everybody safe.

Further details of what we will have on offer will follow in due course, however, any activities particularly those of increased risk or deemed non-essential to learning may require alternative arrangements. This may include events such as trips or school based events such as parents' evenings that introduce visitors to the site outside of 'bubbles'. Rest assured that parallel to this we are also planning virtual alternatives where appropriate.

Current Year 6/ New year 7

Welcome to our new Year 7's to your new school. I had the great pleasure of seeing so many of you on your recent transition visit and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Until I see you in the new year, I cannot convey a better welcome than the following excellent poem from our current Madani Boys School Council Chair Abdul Sattar:

*Welcome to Madani you are very lucky to be here
A place where you can learn and enjoy without any fear
Your teachers are there, helping you every day
Even if it is the cold December or the hot month of May
Make sure on your first day you are not so late
After 8:15 they will probably close the gate
You may be worried, and you may be scared
But do not worry you have to be prepared
A five-year mission, learning lots of new things
When you finish school, you will be flying with wings
We have a lovely chef cooking you lots of food
On our special Eid meal, we have it barbequed
There are lots of adventures waiting for you
So be ready as there is a lot to go through
The greatest thing we have is our faith Islam
We start the day off by saying salaam
I hope you have a great time and achieve the best
In every part of your life and in every test
Knowledge is like a cake, layers upon layers
Remember us, your teachers,
And this school in your precious prayers,
Welcome!*



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Please note that due to the pandemic our national suppliers with manufacturing abroad have had significant delays with the new uniform. A separate letter detailing this and the interim arrangements will be sent out shortly.

Summer School Meal Arrangements

The Covid Summer Food Fund will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to be supported over the summer holiday period. This includes providing support to year 11 who were confirmed as eligible and claiming benefits-related free school meals during the summer term, regardless of whether they remain registered with the school.

We have made arrangements for free school meals for all current students. Eligible Year 6 parents/ carers are requested to contact your primary school. If you have any concerns or require support, please email help@madani.leicester.sch.uk or call the school office and leave a message.

HELP/ Safeguarding arrangements

If you need help or have a safeguarding concern during the summer, please call or email using the following contact details to speak to a designated safeguarding leader directly:

- Madani Boys School Telephone Number: 07572 872488
- Madani Girls School Telephone Number 07376 222501
- Email: HELP@madani.leicester.sch.uk

Alternatively, you may also contact the Children and Young People's 'Duty and Advice Service' directly via 0116 4541004 (Open 24/7), Childline 0800 1111; and or if appropriate ring the police 0116 222222. In the event of an emergency, always call 999.

Online safety

Over the holiday, your child may spend more time online. Use the links below for more information on the key internet safety issues and tips/advice on how to keep your child safe whilst online:

- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Are you feeling anxious?

Every child, and every home, has had a different experience with lockdown and the additional pressures associated with the challenges of living through COVID-19, be that: isolation, bereavement, financial strains, socialising and many more. In times like this, it becomes easy to feel deflated, demotivated and frustrated.

Alhamdulillah, we are fortunate to find great comfort in the teachings of our beloved Prophet Mohammed (SAW) to help us revive our mind sets.

"The magnitude of the reward is proportionate to the severity of the trial. When The Almighty loves a people, HE tests them. Whoever accepts that shall be pleased..." (Sahih Muslim)

There are many avenues where you can find support such as Childline. This is a free, private and confidential service which can help you with any issue you are experiencing. You can contact them via 0800 1111 or the website www.childline.org.uk

Similarly, whilst we know the majority of families will be delighted that schools are reopening, there may be some parents or students who feel anxious about returning: if this applies to you, please contact us as soon as you can, and we will work with you to ensure you feel reassured that all your concerns have been addressed.

What you can do to help this summer and beyond

We all have a responsibility to keep our communities safe throughout summer and the school safe as we return to school. Please stay at home, avoid congregating with friends and maintain high levels of hygiene washing your hands regularly and social distancing. During the current lockdown, please avoid non-essential travel locally and certainly beyond the city.

Obviously if your son or daughter, or somebody else in your household, has any of the coronavirus symptoms they should stay at home until tested. If you are unsure please go to 111.nhs.uk, or call 111 which is available 24

hours a day, 7 days a week. If you have difficulties communicating or hearing, you can call 18001 111 on a textphone or use the [NHS 111 British Sign Language \(BSL\) interpreter service](#) if you're deaf and want to use the phone service.

This September, everyone will need to play a part in keeping the virus out of school. We request that pupils avoid going into shops on the way into school and that they walk or cycle to school if they can. If students have to use public transport, they should wear a suitable face covering while travelling, which is in line with current government advice. Please note, pupils will be required to wear uniform next term.

Personal message from Mr Imtiaz Patel

'Some of you may be aware that I will be moving on after the Summer to a new role as Principal in the City. It's very disappointing that I won't get the opportunity to meet with you during this difficult time but I make duas that you and your loved ones are safe and well. Madani has given me amazing opportunities over the years and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with children and families over this time. I leave with fond memories and Madani will always have a special place in my heart. I will continue to pray for the success of the Schools and that not only achieve well in their studies but leave with the right values and as well rounded individuals to fulfil your ambitions and contribute to your community. Please also remember me in your duas'.

On behalf of us all staff, students, families and the board at Madani schools, JKK/ Thank you to Mr Patel who has always reflected the beating Heart core of our schools in every way – honesty, excellence, accountability, respect and tolerance – he leaves a true legacy and as a legend of our institution. I will personally never forget his immeasurable support as a colleague, friend and brother.

THANK YOU | SHUKRAN

Students: Thank you/ JKK/ Shukran for your patience and perseverance. All of your staff look forward to seeing you again soon. Please do ensure that you are punctual upon your salaah and maintain the wonderful ethos **"HEART"** values as ambassadors of Madani. Our ethos and values will be a means of getting closer to The Almighty and living life through the teachings of our Prophet (SAW).

Parents/ Carers: We very much appreciate your support and understanding in what has certainly been unprecedented times. Thank you/ JKK/ Shukran/ for your continued support throughout. Our primary aim and supplication above all is that every child, parent, carer and member of staff return to school once we reopen.

Please continue to make du'a for our learning community, all communities worldwide particularly our vulnerable and elderly inshaAllah for The Almighty's Divine Mercy.

Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: For you are All-Hearing, the All-knowing

We will continue to be in touch over the summer to keep you informed about our plans, and to remind you of the key information you need to know. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through the contact details provided above.

Best regards/ Wasalam

R.Laher

Riyaz Laher

Head of Schools

Madani Schools' Federation

Madani Boys School | **Madani Girls School**

Attached herewith

- GCSE Results Day letter Updated - Current Year 11 students only
- Unifrog letter - All new Y7-11 students
- Knowledge Organisers – Year group specific new Year 7 – 9

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