

5 September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

New School Year – September 2019

It was fantastic to welcome students back to school this morning. The new year brings a spirit of optimism, expectation and excitement for what lies ahead for our school community. I was particularly pleased to welcome our new Year 7. Every student looked so smart in their uniform and it was lovely to talk to so many of them and hear how much they were looking forward to the day ahead. Of course, the change to a new school can be a source of apprehension and nervousness, but parents can be reassured that all the students are in safe hands.

I am pleased to inform you that we are fully staffed for the year and we have made some tremendous appointments to the staff team to help us to grow and develop further. We have had two days of staff professional development, briefings and preparation time and the team have been working diligently to ensure we were ready to welcome students this morning.

Over the summer we received an excellent set of examination results for our first GCSE examination (Religious Studies) and we will be sharing the results with Year 11 tomorrow. Suffice to say, the results are a strong validation of the processes and support we offer to students to prepare them for their examinations. Moreover, they are testament to the hard work that students themselves put in – well done Year 11!

Over the next couple of days, students will be issued new lockers and the new school bags will be distributed. Please can I ask all parents to ensure that the locker package or new bag has been paid for via Parentpay. Students have been very enthusiastic about the new school bag commenting that it is much more comfortable to wear and useful. We also think that the bag will be much more durable.

Over the summer we have made some improvement and adaptations to the school. The inclusion area has been re-modelled to become much more fit for purpose as an area where we can help and support our most vulnerable students. We have also created some extra staff office and working space on the second floor. Perhaps the biggest change that parents will notice is the remodeling of the reception area. We have done this work to upgrade the security of the building and improve student safety. Parents and visitors to the school will now need to push the buzzer to the left-hand side of the reception doors to be able to enter.

As the school has grown, we have needed to create some extra classroom capacity to teach our rich and varied curriculum. Over the summer, work commenced to add two additional classrooms to the rear of the building. We had hoped this work would have been completed by the start of term but, alas, project timelines were delayed and we are unlikely to be able to use the classrooms for a couple of weeks. As a result, we have had to put in place a temporary rooming plan for the start of term for a number of classes. However, staff will ensure that the impact on lessons and learning is kept to the absolute minimum and I would hope we will be well into the new rooms by the end of September.

Finally, can I remind parents that access to the school is only via reception and that unless there is a pre-agreed reason, cars will not be permitted past the barrier at the front of school for the 15 minutes before the start of the school day or for 15 minutes at the end of the day. This is to ensure the safety of students. Crescent Road is a very congested road and currently sections of the road

are closed to traffic. We would appeal to parents to consider public transport, walking or cycling as the best options for travelling to school. If a student really must travel to/from school by car, we would ask you to drop and pick up students on the Wokingham Road – a 2 minute walk from the school.

Members of the school leadership team and other staff will be in touch over the next few school days to share with you other important information and new systems and process that we have introduced this year. Please watch out for these and do remember that school letters can also be found on the school website.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the school office via MERoffice@maidenerleghschool.co.uk

Yours sincerely



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher