



21 July 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Welcome to Year 8 – I'm Possible**

Firstly, thank you for your continued support of Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, in what has been an unexpected and challenging time for us as a school, our students and parents alike.

The necessary move to remote learning and the emotional impact that Covid-19 has had, has undoubtedly presented us with new challenges. Should any student feel that they need support in the challenges of returning to school, or any personal matters that have occurred during this time then please do not hesitate to contact me and I will endeavour to support.

On an academic level the majority of the year group engaged well with remote learning and strived to get the best out of this situation to reduce the impact on their learning. I would encourage those that have not been able to fully engage with work since March to use the summer holiday to catch up as much as they are able to. Doing this will really help when we return in September, particularly as this coming year is the opportunity to choose their GCSE options.

I want to encourage everyone to use this milestone as the driving force to be reinvigorated and full of aspiration and ambition for the start of a new academic year and to come back to school with motivation and passion to fulfil their potential and engage with all aspects of their education. The students will need support from both school, their peers and yourselves at home in order to do this. As I said to the Year 7 students in January, we are a team and we need to work together to ensure that all are successful. As such, I would ask that you use the summer holiday to discuss with your child the importance of their education and encourage them to engage fully upon our return and to build on the great attitude they've already shown in order to achieve the very best.

I would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of some upcoming key dates for Year 8 for the upcoming year;

- **Data Collection Point 1 – Monday 16 November 2020**
- **Options Evening – Wednesday 13 January 2021**
- **Progress Meeting (Parents' Evening) – Thursday 25 February 2021**

I would also like to make you aware of the Assessment Week that Year 8 will sit at the beginning of January. This is a week in which students will sit examinations in every subject. The purpose of Assessment Week is to give the students the experience of preparing for and sitting exams in the same manner that they would in their actual GCSE's, whilst also enabling both teachers and students to assess their attainment so that future learning and revision can be targeted.

I am confident that we can continue to work together, with the students at the forefront, to ensure that our journey in through the last part of Key Stage 3 has a positive start to allow students to reach their full potential.

Should you have any questions regarding the dates I have highlighted, or anything else that you would like to discuss, then please do not hesitate to contact me, via the school reception, on 01189 668065.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Rabin', with a stylized flourish above the letters.

Mr J Rabin

Head of Year 8