

14 July 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

End of Summer Term 2023

As we near the end of a very busy and successful year at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, I wanted to write to you to reflect on the past year, as well as to highlight some of the key dates and events ahead.

When I started as Headteacher in September, I was full of hope and optimism for the future of our school. A year later, despite many challenges, I am confident that MER will continue to grow and move forward. My confidence is based on two main bodies of evidence: our fantastic students and our wonderful staff. The expertise and commitment of our staff has enabled us to continue to fulfil our promise to provide an excellent education for our students. For their part, our students never cease to amaze me; both in terms of their thirst for knowledge in the classroom as well as their commitment to participating in our enrichment programme.

I have also been heartened by the support and connections that have been made this year with our community; forming our first Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) has been a major step forward in building those relationships, and I look forward to many more PTA events being organised next year. I was also pleased to receive your feedback through the Trust survey in the spring term, this information has been used to help us review and reflect on our current practices as well as helping us to plan for 2023-24. I have added a link [here](#) to highlight some of the key areas of feedback you gave us, along with our response in a "You Said-We Did" overview. Thank you for your feedback and your support, it means so much to us to create and maintain a strong connection with parents and carers; your views will help us in continuing to move our school forwards.

Last day of term

Friday 21 July is our last day of term. Students will spend the morning in a mix of lessons and time with their tutor, before we have our final whole school assembly. This will provide the opportunity for awarding prizes, saying goodbye to staff that are leaving and celebrating the successes of the year. Students will then return to their tutor rooms and will be dismissed from school at approximately 12.20pm.

New School year (2023-24)

The new school term begins with two staff training and preparation days on Friday 1 and Monday 4 September. We will then have a staggered start to the term to allow our Year 7 students time to acclimatise to their new surroundings. **Year 7** will start on **Tuesday 5** and years **8-11** will be welcomed for their first day back on **Wednesday 6 September**. Year 7 will have a full day of induction and orientation to MER on the Tuesday.

Wednesday 6 September will begin with a focus on restart messages, orientation, and administration of timetables etc. Formal lessons will commence from period 3. Please remember that the school gates open at 8.30am and students are expected to be in their tutor rooms by 8.40am. School will finish each day at 3.10pm.

Please remember to check the uniform requirements which can be found through the link to our website [here](#). The summer holiday is also a good time to ensure that students have the right equipment for their lessons; please see the link to the equipment [checklist here](#).

Thank you again for your support this year, we are looking forward to working closely with you next year and I am excited about the future and the opportunities that lie ahead. As you will have noted from the "You Said- We Did" survey feedback, we are planning a **Student Progress Day on 6 December**, where students and their parents will be invited into school for an appointment with their tutor to review their progress. We hope that this will give students additional support, advice and guidance, as well as another opportunity for parents to be part of those important conversations.

Important dates

Year 7

Tuesday 12 September	Year 7 Information Evening
Thursday 14 March	Year 7 Progress Meeting

Year 8

Thursday 21 September	Year 8 Information Evening
Thursday 25 April	Year 8 Progress Meeting

Year 9

Wednesday 13 September	Year 9 Information Evening
Tuesday 9 July	Year 9 Progress Meeting

Year 10

Tuesday 19 September	Year 10 Information Evening
Tuesday 27 February	Year 10 Progress Meeting

Year 11

Thursday 14 September	Year 11 Information Evening
Thursday 14 December	Year 11 Progress Meeting

Heads of Year for 2023-24

Head of Year 7	Mr D Carpenter
Head of Year 8	Miss L Ryan
Head of Year 9	Mr A Sparks
Head of Year 10	Mrs C Langille
Head of Year 11	Mrs A Cotton

PTA Uniform Shop

Requests can still be made via merpta@maidenerleghtrust.org for purchasing second hand uniform items from the PTA Uniform shop and to collect items before the summer holidays.

Whatever your plans, I wish you well for the summer break. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Your sincerely



Mr W Graham
Headteacher