

15 September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Headteacher update

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you at the beginning of the new academic year to give you some feedback on how the start of term is going, and some notice of key events to look forward to.

Firstly, thank you for baring with us during a very challenging time at MER and across all the schools in the Maiden Erleigh Trust. As you will be aware, the cross trust cyber-attack has caused considerable disruption to our school operations, impacting on a number of areas, including our ability to deliver our normal catering service. We are hopeful that these issues will be resolved by the middle of next week, but in the meantime, we will be continuing to provide a hot meal for our free school meals students only, all other students will need to bring a packed lunch. Thank you for continued patience and understanding on this matter, we will of course continue to keep you informed as and when we are able to resume business as usual.

Despite the IT issues, our teaching staff have risen to the challenge and continued to strive to provide good quality teaching and learning for all our young people. As ever, the overwhelming majority of our students have settled well into school; it has been wonderful to welcome our new Year 7s, and we are very pleased with the start that they have made to their MER journey.

Our parent information evenings have been well attended this week for Year 7, 9 and 11, we look forward to meeting with parents of Year 10 next Tuesday (19th) and Year 11 on Thursday (21st). As you know, building strong partnerships between the school and you, the parents, is such an important aspect in supporting your children to maximise their chances of success. With that mind, and in response to the parent survey from last academic year, we will be hosting a Student Progress Day on **6 December**; this will be an opportunity for all parents to meet with your child's form tutor, during the school day, to discuss their academic progress across all subjects, as well as their personal development. Students will be expected to accompany their parents into school for this event; more details will follow nearer the time but please save the date in your diaries to make sure that you are able to attend.

Our school Open Evening, for prospective parents and young people, will take place on Thursday 28 September. To allow for staff to prepare for the evening, school will close early on Thursday 28 September at 2.05pm and will open slightly later on Friday 29 September at 9.45am, to allow staff time to clear away and prepare for the day.

We are looking forward to working closely with you throughout the academic year, please visit our website to give any feedback that will help us to grow and improve as a school. I have spoken to each year group about the importance of Aiming High, Working Hard and Being Kind; if they follow those key principles, they are bound to succeed.

I hope that I will be able to resume my usual biweekly video update from Friday 29 September, if our IT issues have been resolved!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W Graham', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr W Graham
Headteacher