



Friday 24th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

MER “Heads Up” News

As we approach the end of another very busy year, I wanted to highlight some of the amazing achievements of our MER students this term, and to remind you of some of the key events that will be taking place in December.

It has been a real privilege to share so much good news with the students through assemblies this week, and to remind them how proud they should be of our school. Our Ofsted “Good” judgement following the inspection in September highlighted so much that is special about our community, and in their report, the inspectors acknowledged that at the heart of that are the “positive relationships that exist between staff and pupils”. I also showed the students how our school compares to other local schools in Reading in terms of the positive progress Year 11 make since the start of their journey at MER.

It has also been especially pleasing to see how many applications we have received for Year 7 places in September 2024, 546 families have applied to join our school, which is further confirmation of our positive reputation in the local community.

During break time today I met with 42 students from Year 7, 8 and 9 for a hot chocolate celebration. The group were invited in recognition of a variety of individual achievements which included: having their short stories published as part of the “Timeless Tales” Young Writers Anthology; winning the Great Balloon Debate and for being fantastic ambassadors for the “MER WAY”. It is always the highlight of my week to celebrate the work and achievements of our wonderful students and I look forward to many more Hot Chocolate Fridays before the end of this term.

Coming up in the next few weeks we have several special events, please look out for further information about these through our weekly whole school communications. Below I’ve highlighted some of the key dates for your diaries:

Wednesday 29th November: MER Cultural Day; students are invited to wear their traditional dress to school which best reflects their cultural identity. Please note this is NOT a non-uniform day, students MUST wear school uniform if they do not wear their traditional cultural attire.

Wednesday 6th December: Student Progress Day; students will stay at home and complete independent learning; Parents/Carers and students will be invited into school to meet with their form tutor or Head of Year during the day to discuss their progress. A letter will be sent to you very shortly which explains how to book an appointment. This is an **important opportunity to have a face-to-face conversation with a teacher and your child**, and I would urge all parents/ carers and students to make sure they attend.

Thursday 14th December: Year 11 Progress Evening (this will be on-line)

Tuesday 19th December: MER’s Christmas Concert; this will be held after school in the main hall and all parents/carers are very welcome to attend. More details on timings to follow.

In addition to the above, we are also hosting our very first “**MER’s Got Talent**” contest before the end of the term, with a series of heats leading to the Grand Final on **Tuesday 12th December**.

So, plenty to look forward to over the next few weeks.

I will write to you again before the end of term, in the meantime, I hope you all have a peaceful weekend.

Will Graham

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Graham', written in a cursive style.

Headteacher

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading