



Friday 8 December

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **MER "Heads Up" News**

As we approach the end of a long and busy autumn term, I wanted to take the opportunity to keep you updated on some of great things that have taken place at MER over the last couple of weeks, and to remind you of what's still to come before we break up on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December; we will close at 12.15pm on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Our Cultural Day on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November was a celebration of our rich cultural diversity at MER; so many students (and staff) embraced the opportunity to express themselves and their identity by coming dressed in their cultural attire; once again, this day was a wonderful reminder of the respect and tolerance for difference which runs through our community, and which is a real strength of our school.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to join the judging panel for this weeks **MER's Got Talent** auditions; we were all very impressed by every student who was brave enough to have a go, the variety of the talent on show was also amazing; we had singing, dancing, linguistics, ukulele playing and even one young man who produced a portrait of one of the judges, in the space of a few minutes! I'm already looking forward to the **MER's Got Talent Final**, which takes place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Last Wednesday we held our first ever Student Progress Day, the aim was to give parents and carers the opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting in school with their child's tutor or Head of Year, where they could have an update on how they were progressing in their subjects and have a supportive conversation around academic and personal development. It was so heartening to see so many parents and students in the building, there was a positive buzz throughout the day, and the parents and staff that I spoke to were very pleased to have had this opportunity. We really would like to get some feedback about this event from parents and carers, from those who were able to attend, and those of you who weren't, so it would be appreciated if you could please [click this link here](#) and complete the survey.

A reminder that Year 7 and Year 9 reports are now available to view through Bromcom and Year 11 reports will be published on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Coming up:

- Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December; appointments can be booked until 23.55pm on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Non-Uniform Day Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December (£1 donation for our Parents & Teachers Association)
- Year 7&8 Christmas Disco, 4.30-6.30pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Concert at 4-5pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Lunch will be served on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December (please make sure you order via parent pay by the 14<sup>th</sup>).

And finally, a couple of reminders; firstly, we are always happy to receive second hand uniform to sell onto parents and carers through our uniform shop, please drop off any items into the box in reception.

Also, an important message about Electric-Scooters: E-scooters fall within the statutory definition of a motor vehicle. Since you cannot get insurance to ride them, they are therefore illegal on any public highway (road or footpath) and are for use on private land only. There are no circumstances which would make a personal e-scooter legal on a road. As a result, e-scooters are not allowed at school, and they fall into the 'prohibited items' category of our behaviour policy. If a student brings an e-scooter to school, it will be confiscated and will only be returned to a parent who is able to take it away by car/van.

I will write to you again at the end of term, in the meantime, thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Will Graham

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W. Graham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Headteacher

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading