



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL IN READING

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Dear Parents and Carers,

MER “Heads Up” News

As we approach the Easter holiday, I wanted to write to you to give a brief review of the last half term as well as to look ahead as to what is in store for students at MER after the break.

Firstly, I wanted to thank you for your support in ensuring that your children come to school each day being ready to learn, with the right equipment and the correct uniform. As you know, we've had a big push on uniform standards over the last two weeks and I'm pleased to say that the impact of this has been very positive so far; I would urge you to continue with reinforcing these expectations when students return to school after the holiday, as we will be doing here at school. Please also note that Stevenson's now has a shop presence in Chatham Place, Reading where you can go to purchase MER branded items. The shop is open 9am-5pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat. MER will be opening a Second-Hand Shop after the Easter Holidays on a Monday from 3:10-4:10pm at school which students/parents can attend to purchase items (cash only). We do also have brand new shirts and some trousers/skirts for sale. However, in order to make this a success, we do need donations of MER branded items, **washed and in good condition** please. Prior to this opening, if you require uniform, please email meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org to see if we have what you need.

Another big success at MER has been the School Street scheme, which is run by volunteers, many of whom are parents of students who attend Alfred Sutton and the UTC. Some of the volunteers have no children attending any of the Crescent Road schools, they are local residents, who see the value and impact that School Streets has had and we are very grateful for their time and energy in turning up, day in, day out, to keep our students safe when they arrive at and leave the school. However, this scheme is in danger of closing if we are not able to recruit new volunteers. Volunteers have been closing the road since February 2022, supported by the council. Around 2000 children attend three schools on Crescent Road and before this scheme was introduced, accidents were happening to pedestrians. It is now quieter, safer and calmer for everyone. Marta O'Brien from the University of Reading measured air quality in the area. She said the School Street: '...helps reduce the air pollution, which is dangerous to health, especially to the younger population that is still growing and developing. A School Street scheme is also encouraging a healthier lifestyle and active travel.' She confirmed that the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels dropped on average by over 40% between January to March and April to May 2022. So, if you can spare some time, even if it is for one morning or one afternoon a week, (8.15–9am + 2.45–3.30pm), I know the organisers would love to hear from you. If you would like to volunteer or find out more information, please chat to a marshal or email meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Thank you for your engagement with the Year 11, Year 10 and Year 7 progress and information evenings this half term. These events are so important in ensuring there is clear and consistent communication between school and home, so that we can all work together to support your



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children, to do the very best they can. There have been a number of other events in school that have taken place this half term including: "Smashed Live", an alcohol awareness workshop for our Year 7 cohort and Drugs and Exploitation assemblies for Year 9 and 10. These sessions are invaluable for our young people in giving them the knowledge and information they need to navigate potentially difficult situations they may encounter in the future and to make healthy choices.

We also had a number of different challenges and competitions taking place during Science Week recently, including the "lab coat competition" and a "History of the Universe" experience for Year 10 and 11. I also had the privilege recently of attending the student presentations as part of their Maiden Erlegh Institute Projects; the standard was exceptional, with students in Year 9 and 10 demonstrating deep and detailed knowledge across a range of research topics, including: "the importance of AI technology"; "the history of the Japanese involvement in WW1&2" and "history of mythical creatures such as the Griffin!" Thanks to Mr Tomsett for leading this piece of work and for giving our students the opportunity and guidance to achieve such amazing outcomes.

The Holy month of Ramadan has been respectfully observed at MER, with members of our Student Leadership Team involved in organising the prayer spaces for our students to use during lunchtime. The prayer space has been very popular and the students have supervised themselves in this area and conducted themselves with maturity and respect.

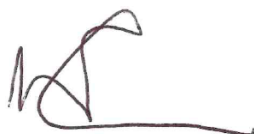
In the last week of term, Heads of Year will be leading MER DREAM reward assemblies for each year group. It is so important that we recognise the students who consistently work hard and endeavour to make progress, please check in with your children to see if they receive any special rewards next week. Whilst on the subject of rewards, please make a note in your diaries and save the date of **Thursday 18th July**, which is MER's first ever Awards Evening. Parents and Carers of award winners will be invited to attend nearer the time, but the scheduled start is 6pm.

When we return from the Easter holiday, exam season will soon be upon us, beginning with Year 11 GCSE Photography exams on Tuesday 16th April, exams in Art and Drama follow very quickly afterwards. Year 10 PPE exams begin on the 22nd of April and Year 8 Progress Evening takes place on the 25th.

Finally, the School Production of Aladdin takes place on Wednesday 8th May, another date for your diaries!

Wishing you all a very enjoyable Easter – school will finish at 3.10pm on Thursday 28 March, and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 15th April.

Best wishes,



Will Graham
Headteacher
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

