

Friday 22 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **MER “Heads Up” News**

I’m writing to you just two weeks into the summer term, after our return from what seemed like a long Easter holiday; I hope that you all managed to enjoy some quality time with your family over the break.

Exam season is well and truly upon us at MER; Year 11 practical assessments and external moderation has already taken place for in GCSE PE, Drama and for our Art and Photography students. The countdown is now on to the start of final examination series, our staff continue to work hard to make sure that they have prepared our students as best they possibly can to do their very best in their exams, this preparation will continue right the way through to study leave (details of the date will be shared with you and the students in the near future).

It is of course incredibly important that every student uses the 3 weeks remaining between now and their exams to ramp up their revision for each subject. As parents and carers, it would be helpful and supportive to check with your children on their revision plans and ensure they have a quiet and calm study space at home to work in. Revision materials including past examination papers will have been shared with classes via Google classroom, please check with your son/daughter that they are using these as part of their revision. Every student should be following their own revision timetable in the lead up to the exams; 2-3 hours every evening as well as revision on a Saturday and Sunday over the next 21 days will make a huge difference to students feeling prepared and confident to do their best when exams start in May. Once study leave begins (details of the date this starts will be shared with parents and students nearer the time), support will remain in place at school. We will be opening a study room throughout the exam period to provide a quiet and calm revision space for anyone who wants to use it during the school day, including for students who have time between morning and afternoon exams. Teachers are continuing to host revision sessions after school, right the way through to the start of the GCSEs; again, please check with your child to see if they are making best use of these opportunities.

Year 10 have also been engrossed in the start of their Pre-Public Examinations this week, the main point of hosting formal examinations at this stage is to prepare students for the real examinations to come in Year 11. Learning to abide by the various and strict examination regulations, as well as understanding the expectations and routines which we use during this process is so important in ensuring they are confident and prepared for what’s to come. They have made a very good start, one more week to go, so you should be expecting to see your child working really hard over the weekend in preparation for exams next week.



In other news:

Please don't forget to book your tickets for our whole school production of Aladdin on **Wednesday 8 May**, you can purchase your tickets through parent pay, details are found on the school website.



Thank you as always for your support with uniform, it is looking so much better recently; a reminder that our second-hand uniform shop is up and running and available to any parents/carers to purchase items at very reasonable prices – for example, blazers are only £5 (occasionally they are reduced, depending on the quality of the garment). We currently have second hand PE kit for sale too. The shop will be open every Monday from 3.10-4.10pm. Thank you as always for your support with uniform, it has been looking so much better recently.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Year 8 Progress meetings on Thursday, it was wonderful that so many of you attended **with** your child; by meeting in this way together, it is so much more beneficial to have clear communication from school and home to ensure that we can all support our young people to achieve their potential.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a new member of the staff to the school from the start of this term. Amy Harvey joins us as Assistant Headteacher, Amy's main role and responsibilities will be to oversee and strengthen our behaviour culture at MER, she previously worked at St Crispin's School in Wokingham for many years as a Head of English and Head of Year.

Thank you as always for all your support.

Best wishes,

**Will Graham**  
Headteacher  
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading



Aim High



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