

Tuesday 23 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **MER “Heads Up” News**

As we approach the end of another school term, I wanted to write to: thank you for your support over the academic year; update you and remind you of some of the highlights; and confirm some key messages to help prepare you and your child for the start of the 2024-25 academic year.

Firstly, your support this year has been very much appreciated. We have been so impressed with your engagement with MER, with our values and ethos, as well as your participation in key events. We know there is a strong correlation between parental engagement with school and the success of your children in school, the more interest and support you can provide for your child with their schooling, the greater the chances that they will enjoy, achieve and succeed. We've been delighted to see so many of you at our parent evenings, both online and, for the first time at MER, as part of our new Student Progress Day in December, when over 600 of you joined us in school to review the progress of your son/daughter. In June we welcomed our new Year 6 (into 7) parents and carers for another “first”, our family barbeque, and then last week we invited many of you into school to celebrate the achievements and contributions of your children at the inaugural aMaiden Erlegh School in Reading Awards Evening.

Whilst the year has gone by in a flash, it would be remiss not to reflect on some of the great things that have taken place at MER since September. Our Ofsted inspection came a little earlier than expected, and despite being in the middle of a Trust wide Cyber-attack, the inspectors were incredulous about the quality and standard of education on show. We learned a little later in the year that our GCSE results were the best in Reading (amongst co-educational state schools), which reflects on the quality of education we provide as well as the hard work of the students in attaining so well. In addition, the school was successful in achieving the “Diana Award”, recognising our culture of inclusion and our work to challenge any bullying in school. Our PTA also raised enough money to allow us to buy our first ever school sound system, which came into its own when we performed the wonderful school production Aladdin this summer which was a huge success.

Another very important feature of our school is the School Streets scheme that has been in operation along Crescent Road for the past three years. Run exclusively by volunteers, the scheme ensures that our students can walk safely to and from school without the fear of being hit by a vehicle mounting a kerb to squeeze through a very busy street. Whilst we are so grateful to Carol Richards and her team of volunteers for giving up so much of their time for free to keep our students safe, the scheme is in danger of collapsing if we can't recruit any more volunteers. The School Streets Scheme on Crescent Road is closed to traffic from 8:15 - 9am



and 2:45 - 3:30pm, Monday to Friday, during term time, accessible only by pedestrian and cycle.

The scheme has made a huge difference to traffic and child safety - the road is calmed in front of the schools, more pupils / students are walking, cycling, even scooting to and from school and the air quality has improved!

Volunteer support is provided - marshals receive online training, are assigned to a buddy, provided with hi vis jackets / sleeves, join a WhatsApp group to manage emergency cover and generally do one slot each week during term time.

The need is to attract at least three new volunteers for the afternoon closure, 2:45pm - 3:30pm, otherwise the scheme will cease operating at that time. If you can help by volunteering and keep the scheme going from September, please contact: [meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org)

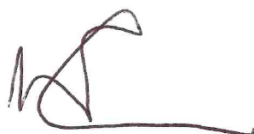
In other news.....from September the school will be introducing the MER Passport, which will include key information that our students need to remember about our school, including their individual timetable!

Please note that our new Year 7 students will begin their school year on Wednesday 4 September. Returning students in Years 8-11 will return to school on Thursday 5 September. [Please see here](#) for a reminder about our uniform and equipment expectations.

It's been a great year for so many reasons at MER, but mainly because of our amazing students.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Best wishes,



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

