

September 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Headteacher update

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you at the beginning of the new academic year to feedback to you on the start of term, to give you some staffing updates and to give you some notice of key events to look forward to.

Start of Term

It was so wonderful to see our new Year 7 students arriving yesterday, looking so smart in their uniforms, they were brilliant during the day, and we look forward to supporting and guiding them during their 5-year journey at MER. We also had a good start with our returning years 8-11.

Staffing Updates

We have been lucky enough to recruit two great new staff members to our Senior Leadership Team; Mrs Harvey is Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour & Culture) and she started with us after Easter, and Mrs Benham is Assistant Headteacher (SENCO), we are delighted that they have joined us to strengthen our team.

Mr Hood has also been promoted to Deputy Headteacher, and I will no longer be in school on a Friday so Mrs Gibbs will be Headteacher on that day.

Key Dates

Our parent information evenings are where we look forward to meeting parents and guiding them through their child's upcoming academic year; these are scheduled as follows;

Year Group	Date	Time
Year 7	Tuesday 17 September	17:00
Year 8	Wednesday 18 September	17:00
Year 9	Thursday 19 September	17:00
Year 10	Wednesday 2 October	17:00
Year 11	Thursday 3 October	17:00

As you know, building strong partnerships between the school and you, the parents and carers, is such an important part of supporting your children to maximise their chances of success.

Following the great response we had last year, we will be hosting a Student Progress Day on **Friday 6 December**; this will be an opportunity for all parents and carers to meet with your child's form tutor, or someone else who has been working with your child, during the school day, to discuss their academic progress and their personal development.

More details will follow nearer the time but please save the date in your diaries to make sure that you are able to attend. Please note, students will not be in school on this date but are expected to attend with their parent(s).



This Progress Day does not replace the Progress Evenings that we run where you have the opportunity to speak with your child's individual subject teachers and are run between 15:30-20:00 (dependent on the teacher) – these dates are as follows;

Year Group	Date
Year 7	Tuesday 29 April
Year 8	Thursday 26 June
Year 9	Thursday 6 February
Year 10	Tuesday 18 March
Year 11	Thursday 12 December

Another important date is Options Evening for our Year 9 students when they will have a chance to explore the subjects that are open to them to take at GCSE level – this will be held in the evening of Thursday 30 January prior to them making their choices later that term.

Our school Open Evening, for prospective parents and young people, will take place on Tuesday 24 September. To allow for staff to prepare for the evening, school will close early on Tuesday 24 September at 2.05pm and will open slightly later on Wednesday 25 September at 9.45am, to allow staff time to clear away and prepare for the day.

And finally, whilst all our term dates are on our website, I would like to draw your attention to two Inset days that are mid-week when school will be closed to students; these are Friday 28 February 2025 and Thursday 3 July 2025.

We are looking forward to working closely with you throughout the academic year, please visit our [website](#) to give any feedback that will help us to grow and improve as a school. I have spoken to each year group about the importance of Aiming High, Being Inclusive and Working Together; if they follow those key principles, they are bound to succeed.

Yours sincerely,



Mr W Graham
Headteacher

