

Friday 14 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

MER “Heads Up” News

We have reached the end of another half term and are now officially half-way through the school year, we hope our students will take advantage of the week off to relax and enjoy themselves, ready to come back to the new term replenished and ready to learn. With that in mind, can I please urge you to read the letter recently circulated by Mr Hood, Deputy Headteacher, which seeks your support in ensuring every student at MER maintains our expected standards in terms of uniform and punctuality. [Please see the link to the letter here.](#)

End of Y11 Pre-Public Exams (PPEs)

We have been so proud of the Year 11 students who have finally come to the end of their PPE2 session. It has been a long few weeks, but they have got there! With another short half term in the run up to Easter, the external exams will soon be upon us, so we want to make sure the students are exam ready!

As a reminder, all students taking exams will need black biros, ruler, protractor, compass and pencil, all in a clear, transparent pencil case. They must also have a working calculator. So much time is wasted at the beginning of exams trying to hand out equipment to students who have not come prepared, and we do not have enough for everyone, so please take time this half term to ensure your child has all the equipment they need going forwards. Also, as a reminder we stock various CGP GCSE revision books, and you can buy them here [Parent Pay Shop](#).

Y9 GCSE Options Choices Forms – Deadline approaching

As I mentioned in my last update, the Year 9 GCSE Subject Options process is in full swing, and we are now approaching the deadline for the Options Choices Form to be completed and returned to school – the deadline is **Tuesday 25 February**. If your child has misplaced their form, please ask them to speak to their tutor or Miss Ryan on their return to school after half term and a replacement can be sorted in order for them to meet the deadline.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities!

Our students have been taking advantage of the MER enrichment programme; the workshops with Jeremy Indika were very well received by our students, they asked some excellent questions and left the session much more informed and confident about how to keep themselves safe.



Our STEM club, run by Mr Hetherington, is going from strength to strength; with a number of students taking part in the Lego Rocket Design Challenge and, only this week, our Year 10 boys Handball team beat Maiden Erlegh and Bohunt School, this means that MER will progress to compete in the Regional Handball finals in Bournemouth in May.

In the final week of this half term I had the pleasure of attending the presentations delivered by seven of our amazing students as a culmination of their Maiden Erlegh Independent Project, the standard was quite extraordinary, and the range of topics researched was mind blowing, from “terraforming Mars” to “Emotions and the science behind them”, the students involved had clearly worked very hard and immersed themselves in areas of interest that they were clearly very passionate about. Thank you to Mr Tomsett for leading this initiative and for giving our students the opportunity to stretch and challenge themselves in this way.

School Production – Matilda

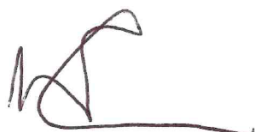
As you will be aware, we are busy working towards our production of Matilda which is coming up in the summer term. Our art department are extremely busy creating the set and props and could do with help! We need lots and lots of **empty cereal boxes!** Please whenever you finish a packet can you send it in with your child – we will be extremely grateful!

As a reminder, school is **CLOSED** to students on **FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY** for a staff training day.

Finally, please do have a read of the latest edition of our half-termly newsletter, [The Pulse](#).

I hope that you all have a safe and peaceful half term break. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 24th February.

Best wishes



Will Graham

Headteacher
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

