

Friday 4 April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## MER “Heads Up” News

Another term whizzes by, thirty days, six weeks and Spring has already sprung! As ever, staff and students have been working incredibly hard during the that time to make the most of the opportunities available to maximise experiences and success.

### Exams

While Year 11 are heading down the final straight and have the GCSE finishing line in their sights, Year 10 have important PPEs to prepare for after the holiday. The Easter break will provide some useful and important time to take stock, recharge the batteries and to knuckle down to some serious revision ahead of their exams, for both year groups.

### British Science Week

Among the many highlights at MER this half term has been the exciting variety of activities organised by Ms Khan and the Science department, as part of the National focus in schools on British Science week. In fact, there was so much to pack in that the week was in fact a fortnight of fun; lab coat competition; mealworm taxis; home experiments; guest speakers from the University of Cambridge and Imperial College. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the story of the MER chicks, their “hatching” watched by thousands of followers on our own MER You Tube channel, which reached viewers as far as Nigeria! Thank you to the Science team for bringing the world of science to life for so many of our students at MER.

### Maths Challenge

It was a privilege to host our seven UK International Maths Challenge winners of the Gold Award to have hot chocolate with me and Mrs Gibbs; speaking to them about their achievements was very inspiring and humbling, especially as someone who was never a great mathematician! It was also striking that each of the group had very clear and ambitious career goals for the future.

### Breakfast Club – Launch of Free Trial

Looking further ahead, there is much to be excited about for the summer term; on the back of Miss Davies’ successful campaign to raise funds through the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme, we are pleased to be able to launch our [free Breakfast Club](#) to all students from Wednesday 23 April. We hope that this initiative will provide our students with the fuel and energy they need to make a strong start to their day.



## School Production – Matilda

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May we are very much looking forward to our annual whole school production of Matilda, rehearsals are in full swing, Ms Zubairy- Moore and Mr Butchers are working hard to bring this spectacle together, all we need now is the support our community to be a part of the audience and to be thoroughly entertained. [You can read more about this here.](#)

## Amanda Stephens

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April we invited Amanda Stephens, Olly Stephens' mum, to school to talk to our Year 9 students around Olly's story and their charity Olly's Work, continuing our work around knife crime awareness with our school community. This was an incredibly moving and impactful session. You can see more about this, including some top tips from Amanda, in our latest edition of The Pulse – [which you can find here.](#)



## Class Charts changes

Next term, you may notice some changes to the names of the awards for positive and negative points, but these still reflect our school ethos of Ready, Safe and Respectful. You will now start to see some comments where teachers have made them around why negative points have been awarded. Please remember that you can access what homework your child has been set and review completion using Class Charts.

## Not yet accessed Class Charts?

If you have yet to access your child's Class Charts account, you will be being sent your Parent Access Code by email before the end of term. To create an account, follow these instructions;

1. Open [www.classcharts.com/parent/login](http://www.classcharts.com/parent/login)
2. Enter your email address
3. Choose 'I don't have an account yet'
4. Enter your parent access code and name
5. Choose a password
6. Click Log-in!

This is a great way to keep track of your child's day to day school life.

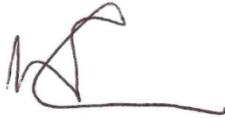


## September 2025 Intake

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to announce that our school was one of only two schools in Reading to be oversubscribed with admissions into Year 7 for the 2025-26 academic year; we have received 494 applications for 180 places, 289 of which are for first or second choice places. I am pleased that these numbers confirm that Maiden Erlegh School in Reading continues to be the school of choice for our local community.

I hope that students have a relaxing Easter break and we look forward to welcoming them back at 08:30 on Tuesday 22 April for the summer term.

Best wishes



**Will Graham**

Headteacher

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

