



Friday 7 November 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

### **Welcome back to a new half term**

Welcome back for our second half-term of the academic year! I hope families had a great break last week.

Our return has started apace, with Year 11 students focused on their first round of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) of the year. These are an incredibly valuable opportunity for our young people to prepare for their final examinations in the Summer, applying their knowledge, understanding and skills. A chance to both show off all they know and can do, but also importantly to help identify any areas they need to develop or refine further in the remaining months, so they can maximise their attainment and success in their final exams. I have been impressed with their focus, determination and positive attitude towards their exams this week and the whole 'process' of examinations. Of course, our students in Year 10 are also preparing for their first GCSE, in Citizenship, this Summer, and they started on Monday morning with a Walking Talking Mock, to guide them through an exam, thinking subject knowledge, exam technique, and top tips for success!

Working with parents/carers is an essential part of educational success. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our forthcoming annual Student Progress Day, which will be on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Our aim is that every young person at MER and their parent(s)/carer(s) will have an individual appointment with a member of staff during the day, to review their current progress and effort, and to work together to support our collective drive for excellence so that they flourish and thrive at school. More details to follow, but please 'save the date'!

Towards the end of last half term, our students voted for their School Council representatives for the year ahead. Congratulations to all nominated and to the selected representatives. I look forward to your leadership and contribution to our school community, and building your legacy at MER. Our sporting community are also smashing it, or is that 'slam-dunking' it (!) with all Basketball teams holding an unbroken record of success against other schools for the year to date. Well done everyone involved! I would like to take this opportunity to give our EcoClub a special mention too, they are currently recycling plastic bottles to create a wall garden in the school, and



leading the way with our 'Cut Your Carbon' campaign. Our school community are being encouraged to have a device free day, eat a vegetarian meal, 'ditch the drive' by travelling by public transport, bike or other means, pick up litter and to bring a reusable water bottle with them to school. Over the course of next week and beyond, students will find themselves awarded points as a 'Climate Champion' if they are doing these things.

In addition to the Student Progress Day, please can I draw your attention to another important date for the diary for this half-term which is 25 November 2025 - Y8 Parents evening. A letter went out about this on Wednesday, and the bookings go live this evening. We also have a number of trips going out this half term, as well as reward events and exciting opportunities in school as well. Please do keep up to date with things by bookmarking our website to enable you to check Parent Letters that go out as well as the school calendar.

I would also like to highlight our most recent Safeguarding Bulletin for parents/carers, which you can find on our website here: [Safeguarding Newsletter](#). The latest edition has a focus on online safety, with a range of advice and guidance to support parents keep their child safe online at home.

Finally, thank you to parents/carers for your continued partnership and for supporting our drive for outstanding attendance. It is vital that our young people attend school every day to maximise their learning, progress, and ultimately their success. You can find more information on our website here: [Attendance](#). A mark of 90% in a test would be a really good result. However, an attendance of 90% across a school year is equivalent to missing 20 school days, which would be 100 lessons, and therefore 100 hours or 6000 minutes of missed learning.

Wishing everyone success in the half-term ahead.

Yours sincerely,



**Matt Grantham**

Headteacher

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

