



9 September 2026

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to welcome all our students back to MER for the new academic year. We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

As we begin this exciting new term, we are looking forward to a year filled with opportunity, growth, and success. Our school values – **Determination, Respect, Excellence, Attitude, and Maturity** – will continue to guide all that we do. These principles are not just words but the foundation of the positive, ambitious culture we strive to build together.

To help students start the year on the right foot, we ask for your continued support in ensuring that all students arrive each day in the correct **school uniform**, equipped with the **necessary materials for learning**, and wearing their **updated school lanyard and passport** (issued to them on the first day). These small but important details contribute to a calm, focused, and respectful school environment where students can thrive.

I would like to remind you of the letter we shared at the end of last academic year regarding uniform and mobile phone expectations. This can be accessed [here](#). A key change to our expectations regarding mobile phones sanctions is detailed within this letter. For this half term students will be expected to show, during line ups, that their phones are turned off and placed into their bags. They should not be kept in blazer/trouser pockets. I have included a reminder of our new sanctions regarding mobile phones should a student be seen using theirs during the school day.

	Sanction	Consequence for refusing to hand over the phone
1 st offence in the year	The phone is taken from the student at the time of the offence. A phone call / message is sent home to alert the parents of the confiscation.	The student is placed into Internal isolation until the phone is handed in. If the student refuses isolation they will be suspended for defiance for the remainder of the day.
	The phone is kept until the end of the week in the school office. The student attends an after-school detention on Friday and is given their phone back at the end of the detention.	When the parent collects their child in order to serve the suspension, the phone must be handed to a member of staff. The phone is kept in the school office until Friday and is handed back to the student after the Friday detention.



2 nd offence in the year (and all further offences)	The phone is taken from the student at the time of the offence. A phone call / message is sent home to alert the parents of the confiscation. The phone is kept in the school office until the end of the half term. The student sits a detention on the last day of the half term. The parents come to school at the end of the detention to collect the phone and their child.	The student is placed into Internal isolation until the phone is handed in. If the student refuses isolation they will be suspended for defiance for the remainder of the day. When the parent collects their child in order to serve the suspension, the phone must be handed to a member of staff. The phone is kept in the school office until the last day of the term and is handed back to the student after the Friday detention.
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We are optimistic that all students will comply with these new expectations following the changes to government legislation regarding mobile phones in schools. We request your support in ensuring that all student are complying with uniform and mobile phone expectations.

I would also like to remind you of our equipment expectations for students to ensure they are Ready to Learn at all times.

Equipment required for students include:

- Black pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- 15cm ruler
- Protractor
- Compass
- Scientific calculator – recommended Casio FX83GT or Casio FX85GT
- It would also be beneficial for students to bring a highlighter and small selection of coloured pencils; however, this is not compulsory.

In addition to the above a refillable water bottle is a required item for all students from September 2026. Students may bring their own bottle or purchase one from school for £2.



Year 10 Welcome

As your child begins their Year 10 journey, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know members of the year since I joined MER and I look forward to supporting every student as they begin a crucial and exciting stage in their educational journey. Over the coming year, we will be supporting students to develop greater independence, resilience, and responsibility, both in and out of the classroom. We will also have a focus in tutor time on supporting students into Key Stage 4 with dedicated sessions on GCSE mindset and revision techniques.

We understand the importance of working in partnership with you to ensure every student has the best chance of success. Regular communication, high expectations, and consistent support will be key throughout the year, and I thank you in advance for your continued support of the work we do at MER.

The Team

The year 10 tutor team is one of the most fundamental components of the school partnership in ensuring that the students feel content and nurtured. I would like to remind you of the team as below:

Head of Year	Mr Dean
G1	Miss Thompson
G2	Mr Hill
P1	Mr Lynham
P2	Mrs Hurd-Rhooms & Mr Butchers
T1	Mr Wheeler
T2	Mrs Vacy-Ash

If your son/daughter has any problems or queries their tutor should be their first port of call. The tutor team prides itself on ensuring that everyone is working to the best of their ability and that your son/daughter is fulfilling the high expectations that Maiden Erlegh School in Reading prides itself upon.

We thank you for your ongoing partnership and support, and we are excited to work together to make this a successful and rewarding year.



Homework

While we encourage students to take responsibility for meeting deadlines and managing their time, a little parental help with planning at the beginning of the year would be most appreciated. As a school we set all homework using ClassCharts and Google Classroom. Please ensure that you speak to your child about upcoming homework deadlines and support them in achieving these.

Attendance and Punctuality

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and students of the importance of good attendance at school, as well as good punctuality to school and to all lessons. It is imperative that students arrive on time to school and are **READY** to make the most of their learning opportunities.

95%	=	40 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days	ATTENDANCE MATTERS WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN? BE SMART BE THERE! Percentages based on 190 academic days
90%	=	80 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day	
85%	=	120 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days	
80%	=	160 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days	

Key Dates for Year

There are a few important dates that you will need to be aware of and we ask that you avoid making appointments at these times.

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| • 30 September 2026 | Year 10 Information Evening |
| • 12 January 2027 | Student Progress Day |
| • 16 March 2027 | Year 10 Progress Meetings |
| • 12 April 2027 – 23 April 2027 | Year 10 PPEs |
| • 21 June 2027 – 25 June 2027 | Work Experience Week |

Finally, I am incredibly proud of the way in which the year group presented themselves at the beginning of this term. I look forward to working in partnership with you all to ensure an excellent experience of Year 10 for your son/daughter. Please do not hesitate to contact me, via the school office. Yours sincerely

Mr A Dean Head of Yr 10

Miss B Davies AHT Behaviour & Culture

