



15 December 2015

Dear Parent / Guardian

## **END OF FIRST TERM**

As we near the end of the first term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to wish you and your families all the very best for Christmas and the New Year. We would also like to take the opportunity to reflect on a few of our many achievements this term.

As a school, we have much to be thankful for. First, we count ourselves most fortunate in enjoying the tireless support of our parents and governors. Secondly, we are thankful for the calibre and commitment of our teaching staff, which enables us to offer so many exceptional opportunities to our students, whether through the courses they are studying or through lunchtime and after-school clubs. Thirdly, we recognise the exceptional commitment of our support staff. Finally, we are lucky to work with such positive and talented students, who embrace these opportunities with such enthusiasm.

Here are just a few examples of our achievements this term, in addition to what has been achieved in the taught curriculum in the classroom:

- Staff have provided a variety of enrichment activities and clubs, such as choir, band, art club, mathematics club, board games club, girls' sports, boys' and girls' football, science club, journalism club and book group;
- Students raised £267 for the Children in Need appeal and responded equally generously to the Shoebox for the Homeless appeal;
- Mr Wallis and Ms Moran took 36 students to Tirabad, our residential outdoor pursuits centre in Wales. Another trip is planned for March 2016;
- Students visited the Sikh Gurdwara in Reading to learn more about the Sikh religion and culture;
- Students led assemblies on Eid, Diwali and Advent;
- Bethan Phipps led the school's Remembrance Service, playing the Last Post;
- The students' School Council has been established, with representatives elected from each tutor group;
- Staff were invited to 10 Downing Street and to the House of Lords to acknowledge the launch of the new school;
- All students took part in an enrichment Mathematics Puzzle Day;
- All students took part in an e-safety day led by Intel Security and Bletchley Park;
- Nearly 500 parents visited our Open Day to learn about the new school offer;
- Students played and sang in our Christmas Concert.

## **News from Maiden Erlegh Trust**

Over the last term, the excellent examination results secured by the students this summer at Maiden Erlegh School in Earley have been recognised by several external bodies and compare extremely well to local and national figures. For example, we have improved our 2014 position in the Sunday Times Top 500 schools, which looks at GCSE and A Level results across the full range of schools, including

independents. This is especially reassuring news for parents of students at both Maiden Erlegh Schools because it provides welcome external verification of our high academic standards.

There is much to celebrate this term in our other Maiden Erlegh School and I urge you to look at the various articles on the celebration page of the website, which will give you a flavour of what Maiden Erlegh School students have achieved since September: <http://maidenerleghschool.co.uk/celebrations>. Our youngsters' achievements, over and above their work in their lessons, are truly impressive.

It is not just the students who are accomplishing great things. A number of colleagues are studying for Masters Degrees or other equivalent awards and others are taking nationally recognised qualifications linked to their areas of work.

Our Trust's National Teaching School, which provides school-to-school support in the region, is going from strength to strength and we have recruited five more Specialist Leaders in Education, all from within the Trust, to support this work. As a result, we are able to provide very high quality professional development, not only for our own colleagues but also for colleagues in other schools.

However well we do, we are not complacent in either Maiden Erlegh School and do not take our attainments for granted. There is always work to be done to improve standards still further for your children.

We are delighted at how well our new students have settled in to secondary school. At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading we have had a number of visitors this term, including officials from the government. It is noteworthy that they have all remarked on the exemplary conduct of your children, their good manners, how smart they look, how happy they are and the very positive work ethos in every classroom they visited.

Thank you again for your support and I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, a restful holiday and a Happy New Year.

With all good wishes,



Peter Thomas  
Headteacher and Chief Executive of the Maiden Erlegh Trust on behalf of all the staff and governors.

**Last day of Term:**  
**Friday 18 December 2015**

The School closes and students will be dismissed at **12.15 pm**

**Spring Term**  
Begins for students on **Tuesday 5 January 2016**  
Ends on **Thursday 24 March 2016**  
Half Term: **15 to 19 February 2016**