



23 March 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **END OF SECOND TERM**

As we near the end of the second term I write with news of your school, to thank you for your support and to enlist your further support with a few matters.

First, we are pleased to report that Maiden Erlegh School in Reading is full once again for the new academic year with a waiting list, as is our other school in Wokingham. We are delighted that so many local families want to send their children to their local Maiden Erlegh secondary schools. There are many applications from feeder primaries and all applications for next year for Maiden Erlegh School in Reading are within 1.85 miles. As you know we want our school to be a local school for families in East Reading that our pupils can walk to each day.

There is often a danger, I think, of perpetual motion in schools, of just getting onto the next thing, so I would very much like to take this opportunity to share with you a few highlights of the Spring Term and to reflect on some of our successes.

- We have appointed some fine new teachers for September.
- Our second trip to our Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Wales was full with 36 pupils and by all accounts has been a great success. (See the school website for details of Tirabad).
- The cross curricular Technology Day was very well received by our pupils. We would like to thank the UTC for their kind invitation to this day. (See the school website for details of this day).
- The cross curricular Carnival Day allowed our pupils to use their creativity in a variety of Arts disciplines – Fine Arts, Technology, Music, Dance and Drama. (See the school website for details).
- Our extra-curricular enrichment programme goes from strength to strength with ever more activities on offer.
- Pupils visited a local mosque to learn more about the Muslim religion and culture.
- Pupils have taken part in the “Passport for Life” programme doing community service both in and out of school.
- Our staff team was taken on a fascinating tour inside the permanent building by the Kier construction project team. (See website for photographs of visit).
- Our community police officer has led assemblies on British Values and the Law.
- Our community nurse has led assemblies on health-related matters.

There are a few other matters we would like to draw to your attention.

### **Attendance and Timekeeping**

We are pleased to see an improvement in the overall attendance level in the school since January. The number of lates to school has also fallen since January. Please can I ask all parents and guardians to help us improve our attendance rate further and to ensure that all children arrive at school before 8.40am.

### **Whiteknight's Road – an early warning**

You will know that there are major works planned for the reservoir at Whiteknight's Lake probably over the Summer Term and beyond. This will mean that Whiteknight's Road will be closed. Families and pupils that use Whiteknight's Road will need to find another route to school and should allow more time for their journey in the morning.

## Student Progress, Reports and Progress Meetings

As you know we benchmark our pupils' progress against the top five percent of similar pupils in the country. In this way we ensure that every child's personal "flightpath" from year 7 to year 11 is appropriately challenging.

Our half-termly data collection points (DCPs) provide us with robust tracking information on the individual progress of every child in every subject. You will know that we have been sending this tracking information home to you electronically and now it can be viewed on the school's Learning Gateway. After the Easter break, staff will be writing reports on the progress that students are making in each subject and these will be shared with you, via the Learning Gateway, on or around **Friday 22 April**. Following this, we will hold student progress meetings (parents' evenings). These will be held on:

- **Tuesday 3 May** for students in tutor groups 7G1, 7G2 and 7R1.
- **Thursday 5 May** for students in tutor groups 7R2, 7Y1 and 7Y2.

Please note these are changes to the previously advertised dates. We will write to you in the near future with more information about the progress meetings.

## Permanent Building

The builders, Kier, are making very good progress on the permanent building: the roof is now in place on the main building and as I write, the roofers are also putting the roof on the Sports Hall; the bricklayers have built the walls to the first floor around the building and once the panels are in place the building will then be watertight; the first fixing is nearly complete inside and, as it is the planting season, the landscape team has planted trees and shrubs around the new campus.

We are looking forward to moving into our new building. Last week I took all the staff around the new building so that they could get a feel for their new place of work and they are already thinking about the areas they will be teaching in and which classrooms will be used for which subjects. I hope to be able to take groups of your children round next term.

We are now aware that we will not have access to the new school at the start of the Autumn term and have therefore secured further temporary accommodation for the school on the Alfred Sutton Primary School site in addition to our current arrangements for the first half of the Autumn term.

We are most grateful to Mrs Preston, Headteacher, of Alfred Sutton Primary School and their governors for allowing us to use these facilities.

We continue to be very pleased with how your children have settled into secondary school. Our many visitors to Maiden Erlegh School in Reading often remark on their confidence, courtesy and how smart they look. As I walk around the school I am struck by your children's positive work ethos and enthusiasm for learning.

May I thank you once again for your active support of the school's high standards of uniform, behaviour and homework.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely



Dr P Thomas  
Headteacher



Mr A Johnson  
Assistant Headteacher