



18 July 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

END OF YEAR 2015/2016

As we draw to the end of our first and most successful academic year it gives us great pleasure to update you on the activities at the school since we last wrote to you.

It has been a momentous year that has seen our school growing from 180 in Year 7 to 360 in September, with another full year group joining us.

We have celebrated two successful Department for Education monitoring visits and an external review led by a team of independent educational experts. We are pleased to report that each time we passed with flying colours.

As we look back over the last few months, we are struck by the sheer number and range of extra activities that have taken place at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading this year, over and above the normal timetabled classroom activities. They have included:

- A tutor group art competition.
- A special Remembrance Day service.
- Making a school-wide condolence card for the mayor and people of Paris following the tragic bombings.
- Visits by our students to the local Mosque and local Gurdwara.
- A Christmas whole-school party.
- Assemblies led by many guests including the police, the Gideon Society, a community nurse and sixth form students from Maiden Erlegh School.
- The whole school running a mile to raise money for Sport Relief.
- Six editions of our in-house newspaper "The Maiden Erlegh Marvel".
- Success in the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge.
- Success in the Reading Schools Athletics Championship.
- A rigorous process to decide our House names.
- Celebration events for those who have made the most effort in their work.
- 'ArtLab' trip to the University of Reading.
- A science reward trip to the Science Museum in London
- The STEM bridge-building workshops
- A visit to the theatre to watch 'Gangsta Granny'.
- A special visit from local children's author Andy Matthews.
- Making Christmas boxes for the homeless.
- Non-uniform days for UNICEF child refugees and in support of a school for disadvantaged children in Guatemala.
- Two successful trips to our outdoor pursuits centre, Tirabad, in the Brecon Beacons.
- A mentoring programme with students from the UTC.
- Extra reading support from sixth formers at Maiden Erlegh School.

- An inter-school football festival with Maiden Erlegh School in Wokingham.
- A summer music concert in the courtyard.
- An E-safety day with visitors from Intel and Bletchley Park.
- The launch of our successful Silver Programme to provide stretch and challenge for the most able.
- A maths 'puzzle' day with visitors from the "Happy Puzzle Company".
- A Christmas carol concert.
- A Rio carnival day across the Creative Arts departments.
- The "People in your Neighbourhood" community arts project (with the University of Reading and the Arts Council)
- Our very first house competition: Sports Day 2016.

The students at Maiden Erlegh in Reading are indeed privileged to have a team of teachers who are prepared to give so readily of their own time, over and above the recognised hours required by their contracts. Many schools today are not so fortunate and we applaud the teaching and support staff for their dedication, commitment and stamina during this very busy year.

We are pleased to report that our builders, Kier, are making very good progress with the new school. We visited the new building recently with members of the Governing Body and were delighted to see teams of tradesman at work on the new classrooms. We have already made you aware that the new building will not be ready for the start of term. We are, however, reassured that we will only have a further short time in temporary accommodation before we move into our brand new building next term.

As we look forward to next year, please could we ask you to ensure that your child has the correct uniform ready for the start of term. Our uniform expectations are on our website. Please could you ensure that your child has proper black school shoes, not black 'trainer style' shoes. We would also ask that you ensure that your child's haircut is appropriate. Students should not return to school with fashion hairstyles, decorative features or hair shaved shorter than a grade 2.

Finally, please could we remind you that the school will not authorise absences unless there are exceptional circumstances and that family holidays are not considered exceptional circumstances. Any request for an exceptional leave of absence must be made to the school in detail, using the appropriate form and at least 15 days before the first day of the proposed absence. Similarly, the school requires at least 15 days' notice if an absence is to be taken for religious observance. Full details of our attendance policy can be found on the school website.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of the school. We wish you a very enjoyable and refreshing summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming our students back on **Monday 5 September**. There will be a staggered start for students as shown below:

Year 7 arrive at 8.40am
Year 8 arrive at 10.00am

Yours sincerely



Dr P Thomas
Headteacher



Mr A Johnson
Deputy Headteacher

MESiR CALENDAR 2016/17

Key Dates

Autumn Term

2 Sept
5 Sept
6 Sept
9 Sept - 16 Sept
15 Sept
21 Sept

22 Sept
29 Sept
3 Oct
6 Oct
10 Oct
24 – 28 Oct
31 Oct

23 Nov
24 Nov

29 Nov
9 – 16 Dec
15 Dec
16 Dec
21 Dec – 2 Jan

Spring Term

3 Jan

7 Feb
10 Feb
10 Feb
13 Feb – 17 Feb
1 Mar
7 Mar
9 Mar
17 Mar – 24 March
24 Mar
27 Mar
31 Mar
31 Mar
3 Apr – 16 Apr

Summer Holiday

17 Apr
1 May
2 May
4 May
29 May – 2 Jun
26 Jun
29 Jun
5 Jul

10 Jul
14 Jul
21 Jul

Staff Professional Development Day
START OF TERM
School Photos
Year 8 Tirabad combined with MES
Year 6 Open Morning
Year 7 Parents' Information & Presentation Tirabad evening meeting
Year 6 Open Morning
Year 6 Open Morning
Year 7 Silver Programme Launch
Year 6 Open Morning
Year 6 Open Evening
HALF TERM
Staff Professional Development Day
(School closed for students)
Year 7 E-Safety Day
Staff Professional Development Day
(School closed for students)
Year 7 Mathematics Enrichment Day
Y7 Tirabad
Christmas Concert
Last day of term
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Staff Professional Development Day
(School closed for students)
Careers Fair
Year 8 Full Reports Home
Carnival Day
HALF TERM
Year 8 Options Evening
Year 8 (G1, G2, P1) Progress Meeting
Year 8 (P2, T1, T2) Progress Meeting
Year 7 Tirabad
Year 8 Options Deadline
Easter Concert
Year 7 Full Reports Home
Last day of term
EASTER HOLIDAYS

Start of term
BANK HOLIDAY
Year 7 (G1, G2, P1) Progress Meeting
Year 7 (P2, T1, T2) Progress Meeting
HALF TERM
Summer Concert
Year 6 Induction New Parents' Evening
Staff Professional Day
(School closed for students)
Open Evening Year 5
Sports Day
LAST DAY OF TERM