



17 December 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

END OF AUTUMN TERM

As we near the end of the Autumn 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:

- We moved into the new school building at long last.
- Rob Wilson MP opened the new school (see website for details and photographs).
- Parents were taken on tours of the new school.
- The temporary school was dismantled and taken away.
- We hosted a visit from a group of 20 architects who wanted to study the design of the new school.
- As part of our provision for the most able, 20 Year 8 pupils took part in a Climate Change Conference in Reading Town Hall.
- There have been several editions of the school magazine 'The Maiden Erlegh Marvel' which is produced entirely by our pupil journalists.
- We took delivery of our brand new 66 plate minibus so our pupils were able to take part in a variety of away fixtures.
- The School's new Foundation Programme Curriculum Booklet (for Years 7 and 8) was published on the website to help families with the curriculum offer.
- Our Year 8 rugby team won the Reading Conference League and were awarded the cup. Our Year 7 rugby team also got off to a great start in their competitive season.
- 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 money for the homeless and responded equally generously to the Soctober appeal.
- There were several residential trips to Tirabad, our residential outdoor pursuits centre in Wales.
- Students visited the Sikh Gurdwara in Reading to learn more about the Sikh religion and culture;
- Students led assemblies and elected representatives from each tutor group.
- 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;
- There was an e-safety evening for parents.

- There was a Key Stage 4 Options evening – Year 8 ‘Roadmap’.
- Nearly 500 parents visited our Open Day to learn about the new school offer.
- Students played and sang in our Christmas Concert.

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 into 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.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working closely with you to create the new school. It has been exciting and very rewarding to see your children flourishing in their new school.

Together, staff, governors, parents and students have put in place the firm foundations of a 21st century secondary school.

I know that you will give my successors your continued commitment and support as they take the school forward in the next exciting phase of its development.

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:
Tuesday 20 December 2016

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

Spring Term
Begins for students on **Wednesday 4 January 2017**