

Friday 11 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

MER “Heads Up” News

It has been so wonderful the last couple of weeks holding our Open Morning sessions as a follow up to the Open Evening event last month. The best part is seeing the pride with which our students show prospective families around their school and the eagerness of the teaching staff to invite the touring groups into their lessons – it really does show how fantastic the MER community is. If you attended due to having another child coming up to secondary school then we hope you liked what you saw – please do feel free to send us any feedback to meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

This month has also seen us finish our Year Group Information Evenings – these are such a great way to get information through to parents. If you weren't able to attend, please do take some time to look through the slides – years 7/8/9 are already on the website and the link to those was sent out in weekly comms. Years 10 & 11 will be up soon – we will put those links in weekly comms too. Speaking of these Information Evenings, we were blown away by the attendance to the Year 11 one which was standing room only!



On Monday of this week our Year 7 students had an assembly on knife crime, raising awareness of the dangers of getting involved with unscrupulous characters outside of school and making them aware of, and understanding the signs of grooming and exploitation. This aspect of our PSHE programme is so important in ensuring students have the knowledge they need to keep themselves and others safe.

Another exciting event happening this week is the launch of our Whole School Production! We are delighted to be able to announce that we have been given the rights to perform a very well-known West End musical that we believe the students will thoroughly enjoy - Matilda! The production will take place in the summer term and will be holding our auditions next week! We



hope to see many of our students attend these and for those who are not interested in the spotlight, there will be plenty of backstage roles for them to get involved with. There is a google classroom set up for those interested, so please do encourage your child to join it – the joining code is ***h3vq3gq***.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I wanted to update you on our current attendance figures and how we compare to other schools. As you are aware, there is a close correlation between regular attendance to and attainment, the more your child attends school, the better their chances of success. Nationally, the average attendance in secondary schools as of today is 93.2%, at MER, our current attendance is 93.86; whilst this is a little higher than national, we would expect much higher than this. We need your continued support to encourage your child to attend school every day; if you need further advice on this matter, please use the following link from the NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> .

Thank you to you all for your support this half term with upholding the MER standards and expectations. This half term is a long one, but with only two more weeks to go before our extended half term, we are keen to keep the standards flying high.

Best wishes



Will Graham

Headteacher
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

