

Friday 20 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### MER “Heads Up” News

Thank you for your support this term, fifteen weeks/75 schools days later, we have finally made it!

As ever, it has been a very busy last couple of weeks of the term, with students in all year groups working hard to the end, many completing important end of term assessments. Year 11 were given the opportunity to work with university undergraduate students this week; “Elevate” is an external company which specialises in supporting young people to improve their study skills; when working with Year 11, the Elevate staff focussed on developing their revision skills ahead of their end of January Pre-Public Exams. The response of our students was fantastic, with 98% saying they found the sessions helpful.

The last couple of weeks have been packed with festive fun as we reach the end of the long Christmas term.

The kitchen put on a super spread during last week’s festive feast, with Thursday being Christmas dinner day and the team did themselves proud! If you didn’t see the pictures on our social media sites here they are;



With thanks to our fabulous catering staff.

The Art department held a fantastic Winter Art competition which was very successful – you can read more about that in the latest edition of the MER newsletter, The Pulse, which you can [find here](#).

Wednesday was our Festive Jumper day and the staff members on the top floor went all out with their festive attire!





Then yesterday we had our annual Christmas Concert – thank you to all who attended, I hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did.



The Christmas Concert was also an opportunity for us to showcase our new stage lighting that we purchased in the summer thanks to a generous donation from a parent, for which we are extremely grateful.

Attendance matters: our current attendance stands at 93.3% against a national average of 92.6%. Every day counts so please ensure a prompt start for your child on Monday 6 January. Information regarding attendance can be found on our [website here](#) and you can also read our [Attendance Policy](#). Also a reminder that sickness needs to be reported **daily**, if it is not reported each day then it will be recorded as **unauthorised** which may result in being referred to the Educational Welfare Officer. We may also ask for medical evidence if the absence lasts over 3 days or if your child's attendance is already low. Parents must advise us in advance if a medical appointment is during school hours & we will ask to see evidence of the appointment before the time off is authorised.

ALL requests for absences will be unauthorised unless circumstances are exceptional, and the local authority will issue FPN fines in most cases.

Unfortunately, our School Street Scheme has had a number of helpers leave recently and if we don't get more volunteers soon then the **whole scheme may need to close**. Obviously we don't want this to happen, but we cannot do this without parental support. If you feel that you could volunteer for 1 hour a week to support this safety scheme then please email [meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org) and your details will be passed to the volunteer coordinator. If this scheme ends, then Crescent Road will remain open to two-way traffic during the start and end of the school day, meaning the students will have to be extremely vigilant for traffic when arriving at and leaving school.



Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is School READY this term.

As you know, our school uniform is an essential aspect of students feeling a part of the MER community and so we ask for your continued support in ensuring your child has the correct uniform, school shoes and lanyard for the new year.

Should students be missing any elements of their school uniform please ensure this is rectified for the first day back; replacement lanyards and MER passports must be bought at line up for £1 and second hand uniform items may be bought from our uniform shop on Monday after school.

Finally, we have to say a fond farewell to Mrs Van Heerden, Miss Studley and Miss Wildman, they are all leaving MER this term and we wish them the very best for the future.

Wishing you a wonderful and relaxing festive season – we look forward to seeing all our students back after the break at normal time (gates open 08:30 for 08:40 start) on Monday 6 January 2025!

Best wishes



**Will Graham**

Headteacher  
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

