



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL IN READING

Headteacher: Will Graham

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Friday 17 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

MER “Heads Up” News

Happy New Year to you all. It has been lovely welcoming all our students back to a new year.

It has been a very busy start to the spring term, as Year 11 enter the “home straight” before the start of their final exams, it has been very encouraging to see good engagement with the after-school revision sessions that are being run by departments, it would be appreciated if you could encourage your child to attend sessions as often as possible in the lead up to their exams. The next round of pre-public exams begins on Monday 27th January.

Year 11 have also been issued with their “Prom Passport”; every student has to earn the right to attend prom by meeting the school’s expectations as set out in the letter circulated to parents and carers by Mrs Cotton on 13th January. The students are already excited about Prom and we look forward to seeing them dressed in their finest, on Friday 4th July.

Year 9 have had a busy time of it recently, following their assessments this week, (and their vaccinations), next week sees the start of the Year 9 GCSE Options process. On Thursday 23rd they will take part in our GCSE options Taster Day and, the following week, we look forward to welcoming students, parents and carers into school for the Options Evening, starting at 5pm on Thursday 30th January.

On Monday 13th January we had and a visiting speaker, Jeremy Indika, in to speak to students in Y8, 10 and 11 around his lived experience regarding surviving Childhood Sexual Abuse and grooming, the warning signs, and how to support any students that may experience this to reach out for support. This was a hard-hitting, but incredibly important, session for students and we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the students involved who shared that they found his talk important and informative. We are aware that this may have been triggering for some students and wanted to share some resources with you to support any discussions at home. We are also available to support in school, please contact the safeguarding team, via the school reception, if you feel your child has been affected in any way.

[NSPCC](#)

[Barnados](#)

[IDAS](#)

[Stop Abuse Together](#)

You can find further information on Jeremy, and his work, at his website [here](#)



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together

Equipment and Uniform:

To support your child's learning it is important that your child has all of the correct equipment, and is dressed in the correct uniform. Our regular uniform checks show that the uniform and blazer is worn perfectly by the vast majority of students. Please help ensure that your child brings their blazer to school every day. If you wish to purchase from the second hand uniform shop, this is open on a Monday from 15:20-16:20 (please bear in mind though, we are limited in the supply we have).

Mobile phones:

Whilst we do allow students to bring their mobile phone to school, they should be **turned off** and **out-of-sight** from the **time the students are on the school site** until 3.10pm. As per our policy, if your child is on their phone during the school day, then it **will be confiscated** for the rest of the day. Your continued support with this is much appreciated.

Communication with school:

We always stress to our students the importance of politeness and courtesy. Whilst the vast majority of communications that we receive from parents are polite and considered we do unfortunately receive some that are not. We realise that we don't always get things right, however, we always endeavour to ensure the highest quality education for all of our students. If a situation occurs that you are unhappy with, please consider how you communicate with staff. We will always seek to find a resolution and ask you to work with us to find the best and most suitable solutions.

Pharmacy First

I would like to bring to your attention (if you are not already aware) of an NHS service which pharmacies across England are offering for children (as well as adults) called Pharmacy First.

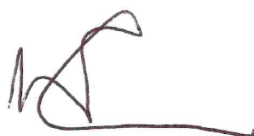
What is Pharmacy First?

This service enables children and adults to get quick access to healthcare advice as they can walk into a pharmacy and access the service (some pharmacies also offer the service remotely as a video consultation). The person will then be offered a consultation with a pharmacist in a private consultation room. This service takes away the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment and may help ensure children get well and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better sooner if they are unwell.

Please see [NHS England » Pharmacy First](#) for further information about this new service.

Thank you as always for your continued engagement and support.

Best wishes



Will Graham

Headteacher
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

