



7 May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you're all well and feel a little less tired by the four day week.

External Review

We were visited by Mary Davies, CEO of the Maiden Erleigh Trust and Andy Johnson, Headteacher of Maiden Erleigh School in Reading earlier this week. In a packed day, they met staff panels, student panels, took part in learning walks of all departments and held 'deep dives' with four curriculum leaders. It was great to share with them just how far we have come in our journey. This day was great training for many of our staff in preparation for OFSTED. It was also a very useful dry run for our students to understand what might be involved in such a process at secondary school. I will share the report with you when I receive it however, what was incredibly pleasing from a headteacher point of view was the way all staff came together and the students really rose to the occasion and both groups wanted to show us at our best to our visitors. I felt this was a really good barometer of the feelings of morale within the school. Of course, there are pointers in the feedback but at this stage of our journey this is what we need as we move forwards.

Year 11

Today is the final day for our Year 11s in terms of normal lessons. In these strange times they now enter a fortnight of school led assessments. These are a much abbreviated set of exams that reflect the very disrupted GCSE courses they've followed and these will be marked and moderated internally before we verify these marks with an external moderation process to ensure we have correctly assessed the students work. We will wish these students a more formal farewell in the next few weeks but for now we wish them luck, thank them for their efforts, camaraderie and input into the life of the school over the last five years.

MECE values

As we say goodbye to Year 11 we are also at a crucial stage of the school year from a leadership point of view. This is the time where we plan and strategise for the year to come. Part of this is our work in putting together and launching our school values for 2021-2022. We are currently launching a piece of work linked to character education and what characteristics and ideals we want our students to hold when they leave us after five years in our school. As a school I hope it will give us a clear purpose and journey for our students from when they join us until when they leave and from these values we can structure our PSHE work, our assemblies and tutor programmes. We want to equip our students with the ability to engage with the world, to understand their place in society, to have self-confidence, curiosity, humility and knowledge. It is an exciting project and one I can't wait to share with you in September.



School Heroes

Our student of the week this week is Gabrielle P (Year 8) for her involvement in extracurricular clubs. Gabrielle attends all 3 PE after-school clubs, she attends dance on a Monday after school and she attended eco club!! This behaviour and positivity is just wonderful and she thoroughly deserves this accolade.

My staff member of the week is Miss Shepherd for launching the History Club last Friday lunchtime. Miss Shepherd is a wonderful teacher and the fact that 20 students took part in the club is a testament to much they love the subject. This is another great addition to our range of extracurricular clubs.

Please use the fab and drab links to leave us any feedback you may have.

Take care and have a great weekend.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

