



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are well and have had a good half-term. In teaching, the half-term breaks are always appreciated although we often notice a few ripples in behaviour when we return as students sometimes struggle to adapt back into school routines. This week has been no exception but we have been really pleased with the way our systems have encouraged the students to do the right thing. To support this, on Monday I led a session on teaching and learning with the staff focusing on questioning and memory recall. It was a great session and is helping to develop us as a learning community of staff always looking to improve our craft.

On Wednesday our Options Evening took place for Year 9. Miss Bliss gave a great presentation with really clear and professional advice on making the correct choices alongside the distribution of some comparative data so that students and parents can look at their choices beyond GCSE. It was also great to be able to offer Computer Science as part of our GCSE curriculum and I am delighted to confirm that we have appointed an experienced and successful Head of Computer Science this week. It was lovely to witness lots of very positive conversations between staff and parents as part of the Parents' Evening. For Year 9 students this is a really exciting time and they have responded very positively to this step up, with an excellent week behaviour-wise.

I have also been delighted with the way the students are preparing to be ready for our Tools for Learning initiative which begins in earnest on Monday. All the equipment is in our Student Services shop. Indeed, the queues were long on Thursday and the shop took just under £200 in sales which when you consider pens are 5p is a lot of stationary! Thank you for your support with this; it will make a difference.

We also launched our Parent Gateway App on Monday. This phone-based app gives you updates each day on behaviour and achievement and is a great way of keeping in touch with what is happening in the school. We were encouraged that within 24 hours over a third of parents had signed up already. If you haven't signed up yet please look at the previous e-mails and communications you have been sent regarding this matter.

On Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>, we are taking 12 students to St Hugh's College, Oxford as a part of our Brilliant Club initiative. These students from Year 8 and 9 will be working with a PhD student from the college on a research project that will take place across the next eight weeks. This is an amazing opportunity for these students and I am ecstatic that we have been able to get these students involved with this organisation.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

Andy Hartley  
Headteacher