



03 October 2022

Dear Year 7 Parents/ Guardians

I am writing to you regarding our wonderful school and how you and the business you work for could help and support us.

In January 2020 I became the Headteacher of Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. At that point after several years of neglect by the council, staffing turbulence and a very poor OFSTED report the school was struggling to survive. In the subsequent period, despite the pandemic, we have grown the school from strength to strength. Our numbers for September look much improved on previous years and there is great interest within the community from current Year 5 parents, confirmed by over 130 families signing up for recent open mornings. Our transformation was confirmed by the OFSTED inspection and report from May this year which shows the school to be moving forwards rapidly.

The school is now judged to be **'Good'** in all areas and inspectors have been very complimentary. Some highlights from the report are as follows:

- ***"There is a calm and purposeful learning environment across the school... (students) work hard to match their teachers' expectations"***
- ***"Pupils feel very safe at this school. They are tolerant and accepting of others."***
- ***"The curriculum intent is ambitious and challenging... and is well organised"***
- ***"Teachers use strong subject knowledge to enthuse pupils and deepen their knowledge".***
- ***"The school's reading programme is successful in raising aspirations and encouraging a love of reading".***
- ***"The welfare, well-being and safety of all pupils is a high priority".***

However, despite our growth and progress, the school needs substantial investment in all sorts of areas because of a lack of investment over the previous 25 years. Since taking over the running of the school in 2018, Maiden Erlegh Trust have been excellent at successfully applying for government grants including the installation of new lights, windows and IT infrastructure. However, what really needs improving are some of the things in the list below that would make a substantial improvement to the educational experience of our students. As you can see, these range from some basic welfare requirements up to supporting new equipment and trips that would enhance the student's educational and life experiences:

A list of ways in which you could support us

- To support us in having our own 'Food Bank'
- To support the establishment of a large school uniform store with a stock of cheap second hand and donated uniform
- To provide Laboratory equipment for our Science department alongside some supporting structural changes to one of the laboratories to make it a better teaching space
- To purchase retractable seating for the AV lecture theatre allowing it to be converted into a teaching space

- To support us in setting up a trip fund to support the wider development of our students. This might be a team building trip on the water, a visit to a performance at the theatre or a residential trip – all of which will help our students to grow as young people
- To provide labour to support painting and decorating of rooms and communal areas to freshen up the school site
- To provide us with a pot of money for student rewards for those members of our learning community that have gone over and above e.g., tickets to watch Reading F.C. or similar experiences
- To purchase an outdoor canopy providing shade and shelter. Currently, there is little in the way of shaded outdoor space at the school
- To support the purchase of a new Minibus to allow us to increase the number of fixtures we compete in
- To support the purchase of IT equipment to improve the delivery of both remote lessons and in-house technology such as projectors and new desktops to replace our aging stock

Whilst our location sits in semi-rural location South Oxfordshire our students largely come from Caversham and many from the Amersham Road estate. We already work closely with the Weller Centre on the estate supporting their foodbank and meeting parents there however for these students there are many barriers for them in accessing education including poverty and poor housing. Therefore, anything extra that we can do to enhance and improve their educational experience can only be beneficial. We are also further inhibited by our currently small student numbers. As schools are funded retrospectively it means that we have no surplus capital to put into projects such as the ones listed above, hence my letter to you. I would love to discuss this with you in more detail over the phone or face to face. Please do not hesitate to call or contact me on the details below

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Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher