



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank the great number of you who have made contact over recent days in support of the school following the unexpected news we started the term with. The staff have been buoyed by your messages and despite the changes that have ensued we have enjoyed a calm, if chilly, first week back.

I understand that Monday morning brought its own challenges for many of our students who rely on the Reading Bus service to get to school. We were informed, along with yourselves, towards the end of term of the change in provision but were not explicitly warned of the implications to the timetable. A huge thank you to parents who unexpectedly ended up bringing students to school that morning. I am also aware that the new provision means that some of the buses are extremely crowded and that this has caused concern, particularly for some of our younger students. We have shared these concerns with Reading Buses and will also be flagging the need for sensible and appropriate behaviour with the students to ensure that safety of all passengers remains the highest priority.

This week I have reiterated to staff and students our key focus areas which we will continue to build on from last term:

- MECE Basics in the classroom and around the school.
- Adaptive Teaching: ensuring all students are able to access the curriculum and are both supported and challenged to succeed.
- Building and nurturing our community links.

Over the coming weeks the SLT team will be sharing more detail on these areas and our first Parent Forum of 2025 will further explore these themes – I hope to have this date available to share with you in next Friday's newsletter.

I was hugely excited to welcome Year 9 Parents to the Bronze DofE information evening last night with more than half of the year group represented. The DofE award is a valuable scheme to get involved in and is a real asset to applications to Post 16 provision.

Finally, I would like to update you on some of the other opportunities that my promotion has opened up. Most significantly, I am delighted to inform you that Miss Cheeseman has accepted a Temporary Assistant Head post to take on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead. Miss Cheeseman has been an important member of my Safeguarding team for several years, and I have every confidence that she will flourish in this role. Miss Cheeseman will be remaining as Head of Year 10 and 11 alongside the new role. Additionally, we are being supported by a variety of staff from across the Trust including Trust Leads for English and Science, School Improvement Directors for SEND and Quality of Education. The support is ranging from teaching, department



management and leadership coaching. We are extremely grateful for the capacity this is providing.

Looking ahead to next week I will be pleased to welcome Year 8 Parents to Parents' Evening on Thursday. In addition, our extra-curricular programme will be resuming in full – please do encourage your children to sign up to one of the many opportunities available to them.

Yours sincerely



Miss E Bliss  
Interim Headteacher

