



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson

MSc (Educational Leadership), BA (Economics)

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Dear Parent/Guardian

### Personal Development

This year we will be delivering our Personal Development lessons differently to allow more time for this important subject. All schools in England have to deliver certain topics such as Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Relationship & Sex Education (RSE), Citizenship, Healthy Eating, Cyber Safety, etc. and previously we covered this in the Friday morning tutor period, the assembly programme, off timetable days and with the support of our Religion and Philosophy Team. We do not believe that this was the best model for delivering this subject and have consolidated a lot of this work into a dedicated lesson for 1 hour a week. Since we do not wish to adversely impact the subject timetable, this one hour lesson will rotate when it takes place each week. For example, this week Personal Development will be delivered on Thursday Period 5, the following week it will be Period 4 and so on, it will then complete the cycle on a Wednesday, then a Tuesday. All subject areas have planned their lessons around this and, as a result, there will be no detrimental impact on our students' other studies. It will also allow us to avoid requiring pastoral days. A benefit of delivering Personal Development in this way is that students will return to their tutor class during this time and their tutors will deliver this. They will know their tutees well, be able to differentiate for them and support them with any difficult topics. Students will be reminded via the notices each morning of these changes and reminded by their tutors on the day.

The overview of the Personal Development Programme can be found on our website, via this link: <https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/page/?title=PSMSC&pid=91#:~:text=At%20Maiden%20Erlegh%20School%20we,develop%20good%20character%20and%20resilience>

### Reading Programme

In addition, the school has a big focus on reading and the Friday tutor period (previously used by PSHE) will be used as an opportunity for the tutor group to read through class novels. Reading unlocks the entire curriculum and we want to make sure all of our students are challenged whilst developing a love for reading. This is an opportunity for students to read different books that they wouldn't normally choose for themselves, and we are very aware that some students find reading difficult, which is why they will be able to listen to the book being read and we will share the additional support we are going to provide to these students separately.

### Religion & Sex Education (RSE)

Personal Development allows students to find out about and discuss a range of topics which impact on their lives and futures. One key element of this is RSE, which is taught in the context of developing positive values and a moral framework that will help guide students in their future judgements and decisions. We aim to teach an awareness and respect of all human sexuality, as well as exploring reasons, consequences and responsibilities associated with sexual activity and behaviour. Delivery of these themes will run in line with our RSE and Equality Policies, both of which can be found on the website. Governors recognise the importance of all students' participation in RSE. A parent may, however, exercise a right of withdrawal from these lessons if the content is not part of the national curriculum (Section 405 of the Education Act 1996). Should you wish to exercise your right to withdraw your child from the RSE lessons, only you should inform the Headteacher in writing. If your child is withdrawn, the school will ensure your child has appropriate work during the period of withdrawal. If you do wish to withdraw your child from RSE, we may invite you in for a meeting to explain the school's policy and discuss your concerns with you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Bendall  
Deputy Headteacher