



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson

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Dear Parent/Guardian

End of Half Term Update

What a whirlwind half term this has been! It is always a long and hard half term as the nights draw in and I have been incredibly impressed with the student's dedication and resilience. I would also like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement. I am writing to update you on school life at Maiden Erlegh so you can see all of the good things that are going on and what we will focus on in November and December.

Since starting school in September, our new Year 7 and Year 12 students have made a brilliant start. I am delighted to see how well they have settled into school and I look forward to seeing them grow over the coming years. Adapting to a new school can be quite a challenge but, as ever, I am amazed at how resilient these young people are.

On the subject of resilience, as you know, we have a zero-tolerance policy on bullying, and we have recently achieved the United Against Bullying Gold School Award. This is fantastic recognition of all the hard work from #TeamMaidenErlegh in achieving this award, with special thanks to Miss Nimmo for championing this programme. Of course, awards are nice, especially when they are gold, but what is important for me is the fact we have challenged ourselves to support students and reduce bullying by benchmarking our standards and improving where we fell short. For further information on this programme, please [click here](#).



In addition, I am also thrilled to report that we have been nominated for 'School of the Year' at the Pride of Reading Awards. Win or lose, it is a great honour and privilege to be nominated for this prestigious award and outstanding recognition for the school.

We have now appointed our Year 11 Prefects, a team of young adults, role modelling the Maiden Erlegh School values and behaviours. I wish them all every success in their newfound roles within the school and thank them for their dedication and support. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Stewart for heading up this group of aspirational students.

We have had some huge sporting successes so far this year and participated in some incredible tournaments. Students representing the school in basketball, football, netball and rugby leagues across the county. Not forgetting a number of friendly games with local schools where our students' sportsmanship really shines through.

We have conducted 22 open mornings this term and the visitors have been amazed at the relationships between staff and students and how calm the learning environment is. I carry out my tours in a very different way to many schools and this can only be done because I have confidence in what we will see. Prospective parents and students choose the rooms they visit, there is no predetermined route and that is testament to the focus and behaviour of our wonderful students.

Our support work continues at pace through our Behaviour Hub work and I have been proud to support other schools in improving their behaviour. Much of this work involves schools visiting us and then a reciprocal visit where we discuss what can be implemented to improve their school. One of the key takeaways is our diverse curriculum which allows all learners to make great progress and engage in their learning.

I also wanted to touch on Progress 8, the score given to the school that shows how much progress students make in up to 8 qualifications in comparison to students nationally between KS2 and the end of KS4. Our provisional score of 0.69, well above average, means our school is in the top 275 schools nationally for Progress 8, another terrific achievement that we should all be proud of.


When we return we will be spending some time focussing on an extremely small number of students who, at times, may defy staff requests. As the professionals in the school, we expect all students to comply with our requests and where they disagree they should raise it with their Head of Year properly where it can be looked into. From after half term, students will receive one warning that they are being defiant, after which they will receive a detention, if this happens a second time the same sanction will be given and both times a letter will be distributed. Any further incidents will result in removal from lessons, a fixed term transfer to another school or suspension. I want to be clear, this is relevant to a handful of students, but we want to support all students by allowing them to learn in an environment that is safe and engaging.

With regard to uniform, I want to remind you that smart watches are not allowed in school and will be confiscated in line with our mobile phone policy. In addition, nose studs are not allowed to be worn in school and I ask for your support on this matter. Should your child need to keep the hole open, we request that a transparent stud is bought. Finally, for girls wearing tights, please can I remind you that any socks worn must be black with no logos on.

I am incredibly lucky to be the Headteacher of this school and I have the students to thank, along with supportive parents and hard-working staff for that.

Wishing you all a restful half term break and I look forward to the students returning on Monday 31 October.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Gibson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr P Gibson
Headteacher