Parents and Carers
Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge
Maiden Erlegh Reading
Maiden Erlegh School

29 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Additional INSET day for staff training – 20 October 2023

You will be aware that the start to our new academic year has been somewhat disrupted by the malicious ransomware attack on our IT systems across the Trust during the summer. We have been working closely with our insurers and their appointed cyber-security experts to not only restore operations and data, but to do so in a way that builds in future protections. Whilst it has taken time to restore our systems, we have been careful to do so in a safer and more secure way.

In the meantime, our staff have been resilient in adjusting the way they teach and developing new resources in short-order to ensure that students and pupils continue to make progress in their learning. Thank you for your understanding and support as we have worked through this difficult period. I am pleased to say that we are starting to move towards "normality", although there is still some way to go.

One consequence of the attack is that schools had to change their use of the training/CPD days at the beginning of term. We had to release time for staff to rethink, review and prepare to teach without their usual IT tools, and it was right to do so.

It does mean however, that our staff, in our most affected schools, have missed important training and development sessions. Additionally, we need to train staff further in some of the new ways of working in their use of IT. The Maiden Erlegh Trust Board have therefore approved an additional staff training day for **Friday 20 October** to be used by Headteachers for these purposes. This is the final day before the half-term break.

We apologise for any inconvenience that this will cause you and I hope you understand the rationale for this decision.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school if you have further questions.

Yours sincerely

Andy Johnson
Executive Director of Education