



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson

MSc (Educational Leadership), BA (Economics)

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Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Attendance at School**

Happy New Year!

I am writing firstly to thank you for your support with your child's attendance, which being above the national average we are of course very pleased with. It is well documented that strong attendance equals academic enjoyment, success and more importantly fosters resilience which increases a student's sense of wellbeing. This is our motivation for continuing to improve our attendance.

Last term we noticed that a small number of students attendance was negatively impacted by being late to school. If a student arrives after 9.00am, they are coded a 'U' in the register, the Department for Education classes this as an unauthorised absence. Therefore, it is vital that every student is in school in time for morning registration at 8.30am. Tutors provide important notices each morning, including any classroom changes, which students miss if they are late.

Furthermore, in the last week of term a very small minority of students were absent. Please can we ask for your support in future not to book holidays during term time, lessons continue as normal until the very end of each term. All absences of this nature have to be reported to Wokingham Local Authority, who can fine or prosecute parents and are taking a very active approach to this. We also work closely with our primary colleagues when siblings attend different schools and are absent at the same time. Finally, it is important to note that when a student is absent from school, the school has no legal obligation to set work for a student.

Thank you again for your continuing support, we recognise that some students can at times struggle with their attendance. If your child is experiencing any concerns/anxiety around school, please contact your child's tutor or head of year and they will be happy to support.

This term is a short but busy one, with year 11 and 13 preparing for their public exams and year 10 for their first public exam in the summer. Year 12 will be studying for their prelims and year 8 will be choosing their GCSE options. For all year groups good attendance will be vital.

Miss A Cheshire

Assistant Headteacher - with responsibility for Attendance