



## Headteacher's Update

5<sup>TH</sup> June 2025

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I hope everyone has had a fantastic week despite the often inclement weather.

### **Eid**

I would like to wish "Eid Mubarak" to those who celebrate Eid Al-Adha on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June.



### **Cumulative Assessment Week**

Our focus this week has been on our Cumulative Assessment week. The students have been fantastic at showing resilience and grit in what is certainly a new experience for them. My pride for their engagement is increased as I watch them all studiously reach for their reading book when they have finished and checked their papers and similarly how well most of them have revised in their study periods showing a real dedication to their progress. The hall as you will see has been set up in a formal manner and the students have sat exams as they would in Year 9 /10/11 in the run up to and real GCSE examinations. Many schools suffer with the students feeling they can't cope with such a formal approach which can then cause real issues in the real examinations. I hope by drip feeding these experiences through their school career the real examinations will be completed with less fear.



We have restructured the week completely and given the students longer lunchtimes, longer breaks and movement breaks if ever there are papers that are back-to-back. I hope these measures will have given the students the 'brain space' to feel the week isn't too onerous. As you will also know, we finish Friday with interhouse sports which is a fun way to round off a busy and academic week (***please remember it is PE kits tomorrow***). Certainly, as I write this on Thursday morning our attendance for the week is around 98% which demonstrates a real buy in from our student body and thank you for your support in this matter.

The assessments have been set by the school apart from Maths, English (1 paper) and Science and therefore it will be interesting to see how our students have fared against the students from other schools across the Maiden Erlegh Trust. The results will be out towards the end of the month, and we have Parents' Evening on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July (different tutor groups on different days so more of you can get appointments) for which details will be sent home next week.

### The term ahead

I wanted to share with you some of the key dates for the term ahead. This table is also in the student bulletin. There is a lot of different things going on in the next 6 and a half weeks and I wanted to share with you this now so you can book these things in to the family calendar.

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June-	Interhouse Sports. Students wear PE kits to school
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June-	Maiden Erlegh Trust annual review of River Academy
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	14 students visiting Royal Holloway University with Ms Angell Silver Programme lecture- The Brains Behind the Brawn- Mr Clare talking about sports science and elite performance athletes
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June-	Humanities trip to Reading- My Hometown- looking at Reading Abbey, Reading Museum and other aspects of Where we live. Students wear school uniform but can wear trainers as they are walking into the town centre.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June-	PTA World Food event at 3.15pm. We are also looking at a Cultural day and I hope to have more details on this next week
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June-	Transition Day for new students
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June-	Cumulative Assessment Results Day
1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> July -	Parents' Evening- Thames. Kennet, Pang on the 1 <sup>st</sup> followed by Loddon, Lambourn and Avon on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> . The Bridge will follow a more bespoke timetable
Fri-Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> –13 <sup>th</sup> July-	PGL Trip 110 students attending. Own clothes day
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July-	Enrichment Day. A chance to try something different as students will be attending workshops on Basketball, Boxing, Dance, Art, relaxation and Drama. Wear PE kits to school
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July-	Sports Day. Wear PE kits to school. River Academy family barbecue. A chance to come on site at the end of the day and have some food with us to celebrate the end of the year.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	End of term- 12.30pm finish.

We are back to a normal timetable next week so please make sure the children are fully equipped for their day's study.

Take care and best wishes

A. Hartley

Andy Hartley  
Headteacher