



ThePulse

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

Maiden Erlegh School | 81 Crescent Road | Reading RG31 5SL | T. 0118 966 8065 | www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk | @MESReading

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Spring may be the shortest of the three school terms but it is often considered the busiest. As ever, staff and students have been working hard to make progress through programmes of study and ensure that learning is "sticky" through our focus on supporting students' learning behaviours and habits. We want our students not just to acquire knowledge and skills but also to become more independent and self-directed in their learning and our work this term has supported these aims. It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers attend our Year 10 and Year 8 student progress meetings this half term. These were incredibly useful opportunities to discuss and work together to ensure that students are fully supported to succeed and thrive.

Last week I took time every day to visit lessons to talk to students about what they were learning, how they were finding their lessons and what their next steps were. I was delighted to witness some truly engaging learning experiences with plenty of hard work and focus. I was reminded once again how fortunate we are to have such an experienced and expert staff team who ensure that our students are given every opportunity to succeed. A further focus for this term has been the work we have been doing with Year 8s as they select their Key Stage 4 course options. We have held a number of information and feedback events for students and parents and every member of the year group has had a short appointment with a senior member of staff to discuss their choices. It has been noticeable how seriously these students have been considering their options, taking on

board good advice and making very wise decisions.

I am pleased to inform you that, once again, we are oversubscribed for September and as we look forward to adding an additional 180 students to the school in September, we have also been busy recruiting new teaching and support staff. I am very pleased to say we have appointed some EXCELLENT new members of staff with a range of experience and skills that will support our school going forward.

Finally, I am always very proud of the school when we respond to those in need. Last week we organised a "Wall of Hope" in support of the DEC appeal for the victims of Cyclone Idai. Not only have we raised a significant amount of money, but we have encouraged students to understand the needs that people have and how fundraising can help meet real needs

May I wish you a restful Easter break. Please remember that we return to school on Tuesday 23rd April (the Monday of that week being a bank holiday).



CALENDAR

8 April - 22 April	Easter Holiday
6 April - 14 April	Ski Trip, Sestriere, Italy
26 April	Year 8 Lego Challenge
30 April	UKMT Junior Maths Challenge
2 May	Stratford East Theatre: 'Noughts & Crosses'
6 May	Bank Holiday

HOUSE POINT TOTALS

Griffin	Triton	Phoenix
33,055	34,155	32,642

Lexia Success!

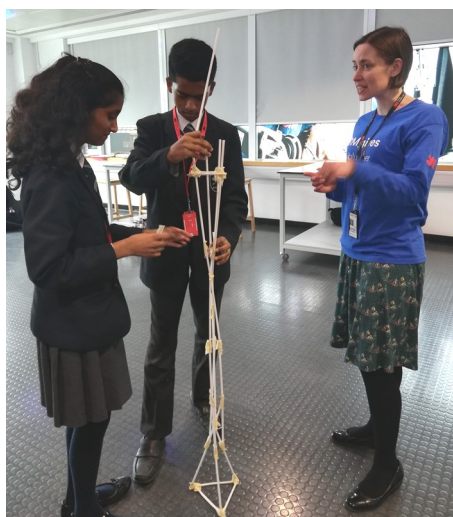
Congratulations to Kinza on completing all five levels of Lexia, an online literacy support programme introduced by the Achievement Centre and English department in spring 2018.



Kinza 8P2



STEM Outreach Day at 3M



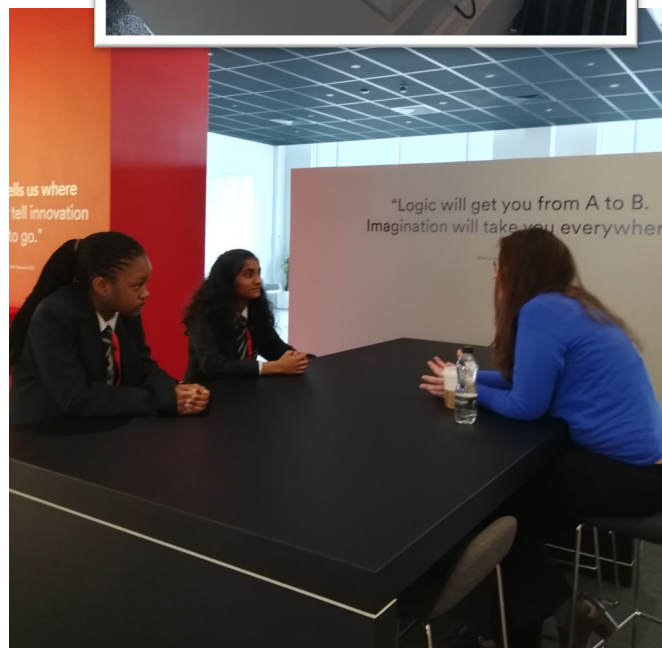
On the 8th of March, a group of 10 students were able to go to a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Outreach day sponsored by the Royal Academy of Engineering. The students were awarded a place on the trip by writing a letter which described their interest in engineering-related careers. We had nine year 9 students and one year 7 student who attended.

The students were put in groups with students from other schools and rotated

through three different activities. The first activity was an opportunity to interview various employees of 3M and learn more about the company and the skills needed to be successful in engineering. The second activity was a selection of problem-solving activities including an escape room challenge, geometrical problem-solving, and the construction of a tower that could support the weight of a Cadbury Egg. Our students were very successful in these and a group, which had two of our students, even set a new record for the 3M Escape Room!

The last activity was a tour of the 3M Innovation Centre in which the students were able to learn about all the products that 3M designs and the inspiration that led to them. The guides emphasized the importance of experimenting and looking for new ways to solve problems.

Overall, we had an excellent day learning about an innovative company that strives to find new ways to solve problems each day. The students enjoyed the opportunity to see how STEM subjects can be applied in real life and everyone left feeling ready to participate in Engineering Challenges back at school.



Year 9 GCSE English Literature Lessons

Students in year 9 are currently studying 'Macbeth' by Shakespeare, one of their set texts for English literature GCSE. We are asking all students to own their own copy of the text so they can annotate it with notes as they study the play in class. The edition we have chosen has very useful notes, a full glossary and pictures of performances of the play to help students understand the text. Pupil premium students will be given their copy with no charge. All students can also buy a revision



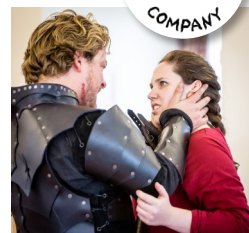
guide at a much reduced price. Pupil premium students need to return the reply slip in the letter that was sent, electing to use their allowance to get a copy of the revision guide, and other students can look on Parent Pay to find the guide available there.

https://www.worldofbooks.com/en-gb/books/william-shakespeare/macbeth-cambridge-school-shakespeare/GOR007738596?keyword=&gclid=EAlaIqobChMlyL7Lx6qb4QIVGoXVCh28NwmHEAQYASABEgIQYPD_BwE

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/etm43-grade-9-1-gcse-english-shakespeare-text-gu>

In addition, we have a well-regarded acting company coming in to school in May to act out the play for the whole of year 9, and to put on some workshops to help students get to grips with this challenging text. Again, look on Parent Pay for payment for this activity. At £7, this is much cheaper than going to the theatre and seeing a live performance which is essential to understand how the play works on the stage, rather than text to be read. We are grateful with your support for these activities. Thank you.

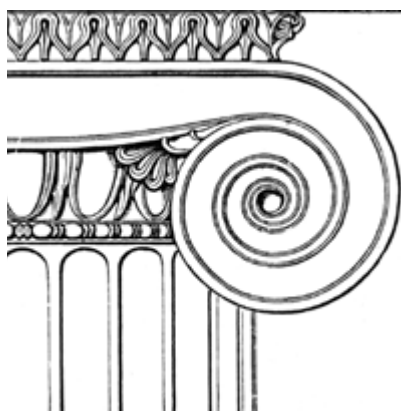
Mrs Escott-New
Head of English



What is this **ARTEFACT?**

Now it's time to introduce our next mystery artefact in our

What is the artefact series.



Any ideas?

All will be revealed in our next issue of the Pulse.

Mock Speaking Exams



In March, Year 10 French and Spanish students took mock speaking exams in preparation for their GCSE next year. To help them prepare, we held an after school session where students could practise their answers with each other. They faced another student and, after a minute, they spoke to somebody else.

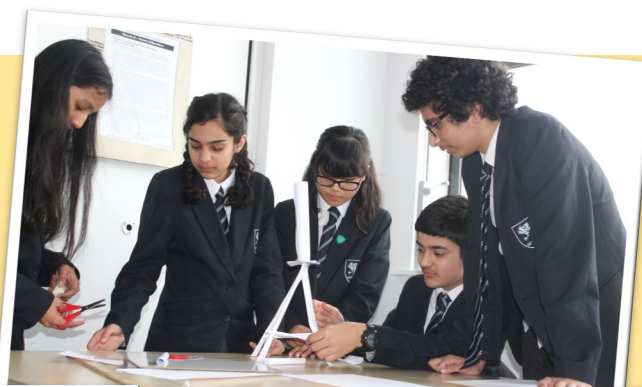
Well done to all staff and students involved for your hard work in the organisation, moderation and participation of the exam!

Mr Winstanley

Gold Programme

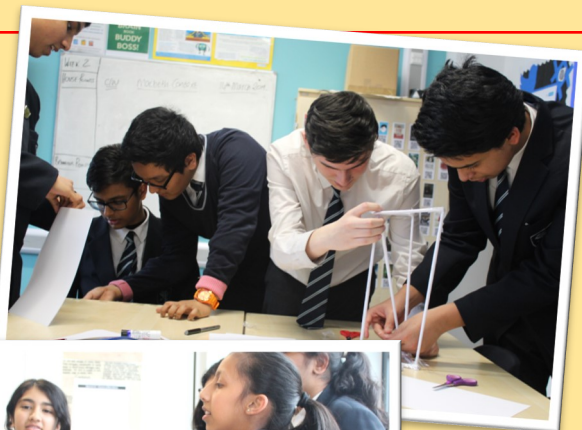
Year 9

On February 11th, two engineers from a local engineering firm, Peter Brett Associates, came in to run an engineering information session for our year 9 Gold Programme Students. The session included both an information session on engineering and the different branches of engineering as well as a practical task. The students learned about transport and civil engineering which are two branches that Peter Brett Associates focus on. The students also learned about the different ways to become an engineer; the apprenticeship route or the university route. They looked at the characteristics of different buildings and then, using those principles, constructed a slender tower that could withstand wind force and be as tall as possible without having a wide base. The strength of their towers was tested using stacks of book and the winning tower was able to hold three books. The students enjoyed the session greatly and left with some new ideas about apprenticeships and engineering.



Year 10

On March 14th, two engineers from a local engineering firm, Peter Brett Associates, came in to run an engineering information session for our year 10 Gold Programme Students. The session included both an information session on engineering and the different branches of engineering as well as a practical challenge. The students learned about transport and civil engineering which are two branches that Peter Brett Associates focus on. They also learned how engineers design buildings to evenly distribute the weight of the building and support it equally. Using the principles of engineering that were shared, the students were able to design some excellent buildings that were not only interesting architecturally, but also were structurally sound. The students learned about the different ways to become an engineer, the apprenticeship route or the university route. They were able to change some preconceived notions about apprenticeship options and ask questions about summer job placements and ways that they can build their resumes before applying for apprenticeships or A-levels. The session was enjoyable for all and the engineers left very impressed with our students here at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading.





Kendrick School
Ms Helen Stacey
0118 9015859



Reading Girls' School
Miss Kimika Gardner
0118 9861336

Support for Parents/Carers of Secondary Students in Reading

The Reading Young Peoples' Emotional Wellbeing Partnership is delighted to offer a series of opportunities for parents/carers to find out more about a range of difficulties that young people may be facing, and how they can best support their child. The team of Educational Psychologists and Primary Mental Health Workers who work closely with school staff to improve outcomes for young people across Reading, will deliver these sessions. We will be delighted to welcome parents/carers from students attending **any secondary school in Reading.**

The sessions will be delivered twice on the same day:

- **Reading Girls' School (RG2 7PY) at 9.30am**
- **Kendrick School (RG1 5BN) at 6.00pm**

Please use this link if you would like to reserve a place for any of the remaining sessions:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5PL6GV5>

Date	Topic
Wednesday 12 th December 2018	Anxiety
Wednesday 30 th January 2019	Depression/Low Mood
Wednesday 27 th February 2019	Self Harm
Wednesday 27 th March 2019	Eating Disorders
Wednesday 24th April 2019	Exam Anxiety
Wednesday 3 rd July 2019	Resilience

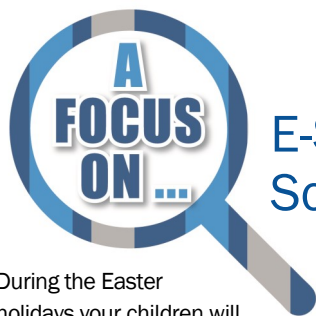
(Please note that parking onsite at Kendrick School is very limited and so public transport should be used where possible - we are a 5 minute walk from the Oracle. Parking at Queens Road car park is the nearest but we can accommodate parking for anyone with mobility issues (please contact Reception in advance to arrange this). Please arrive at Reception on East Street for the event.)

Please contact the host schools if you have any queries about these events.

What a hunt!

26 of our students from year 7 through to year 10 took part in the French Easter Egg Hunt across the school. Students had to find 8 hidden eggs and work out the clues to solve a puzzle. A twist... yes all in French! Well done to Griffin house winning 180 house points!

MC Bourienne



E-Safety and Screen Addiction

During the Easter holidays your children will probably want to spend (even) more time in front of their screens. We are all aware that this poses a risk to them not only in terms of what they might access and who might be talking to them but also children are increasingly developing addictions to their screens.

If you need help or advice on keeping your child safe online, how to talk to them or what you should talk to them about, then the NSPCC is a great source of information: [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk). National Online Safety have a

wealth of information about the apps and gaming platforms your children are using: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>

If you are concerned about the amount of time they are spending online, this Parents' Guide to [Screen Addiction](#) may be particularly useful to you.

Thinkuknow is a website delivered by the National Crime Agency's CEOP Command and is another great source of information and advice [What is the internet of things?](#)

What is this artefact?



Morton ether inhaler

A replica of the ether inhaler used by William Thomas Green Morton in the first public demonstration of ether as surgical anaesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital on October 16 1846. The glass sphere contains an ether-soaked sponge that the patient would inhale through the mouthpiece.

Ether was a second stage in the development of effective anaesthetics. In 1847 Robert Liston used ether in London when he successfully amputated a patient's leg. However ether did have its drawbacks. Not only did it cause irritation of the eyes and lungs but it also caused coughing and sickness.

Careers, Work Experience and Work Related Learning

As ever, we continue to provide a wide variety of opportunities to students as part of our careers, work experience and work-related learning programme at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading:

start 

Start u-explore Careers Software - Reminder

This software package is a fantastic opportunity to explore the many different options available to young people including:

- Up-to-date information from a variety of trusted sources
- Careers guidance for students in Years 7 to 13
- Support and guidance through key moments of choice and transition from education to employment
- Comprehensive information on careers and employability skills
- Local labour market information
- Support with writing job applications, CVs, assessment centres and the recruitment process

The website can be accessed via:
<https://login.startprofile.com/Login.aspx>

Year 10 Work Experience

Following on from the very successful Think Ahead Day in January, Learning to Work will be coming in on Friday 29 March to deliver to Year 10 students a work experience launch assembly. Learning to Work will be organising and placing each student based on the information they provide on



their application form (these will be distributed during the assembly). Students will then meet with representatives from Learning to Work on Thursday 4 or Friday 5 April to talk through where they would like to go. This is very exciting for Year 10 students who will be out on placement week commencing Monday 24 June 2019.



Trust Apprenticeship Information Evening

On Wednesday 13 February, we held a very successful and well attended apprenticeship information evening specifically aimed at parents of students in Years 10 to 13.

During the evening, attendees were provided with information regarding the ideas behind apprenticeships, where they can take you and how much young people are likely to earn. Sam Hill from the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge Company (ASK) also delivered information regarding the

advantages and disadvantages of this route, the apprenticeships that are available in the local area and how to access further information to help make informed destination decisions. A current apprentice also spoke with parents about the apprenticeship route which was very well received.



Wall of Relief for Mozambique



Following the terrible destruction of cyclone Idai in Mozambique and other neighbouring countries, students and staff have been fundraising in support of the DEC (disaster emergency committee) appeal. In addition to the money being raised we have been constructing a "Wall of Hope". Those contributing money have been asked to consider the sort of things that money might purchase and to build a visual representation of our help and support.



The money collected for Mozambique **£305.23**. Thank you to everyone who gave their support to such a worthy cause.



What's been going on in art ...

ArtsMark sessions with Reading University ArtLab



Artsmark
Partner

A group of students from our Maiden Erlegh in Reading Arts Council have been working in collaboration with students from the Reading University ArtLab this term, to build bridges between different subjects. Students had two workshops on Printmaking and Animation, where they responded to artefacts they'd seen on an earlier research project and made connections to them creatively. They had to make links through History, Science and Food Technology among other subjects and create artwork inspired by their research. This work will all contribute to the school eventually gaining ArtsMark status.



We look forward to developing this project over the coming year!



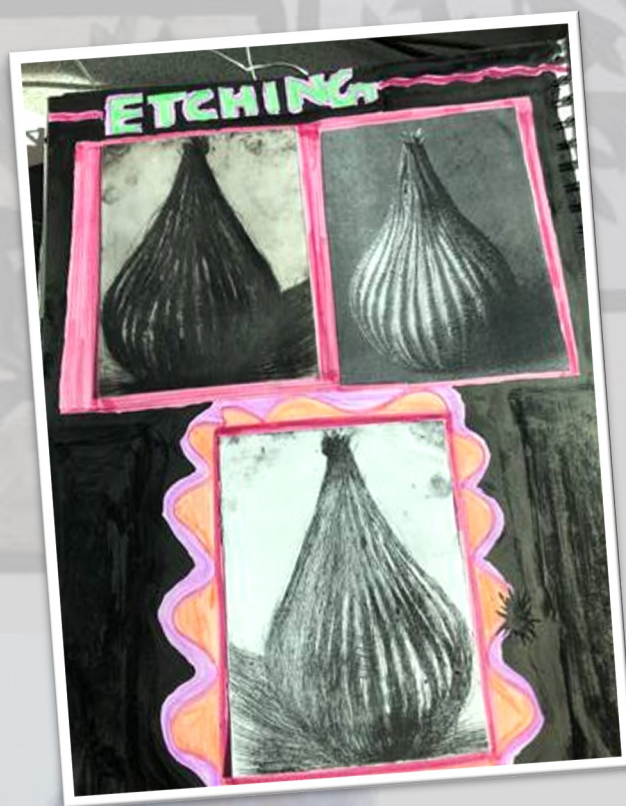
What's been going on in lessons...

Y8 Artwork – Mexican Day of the Dead

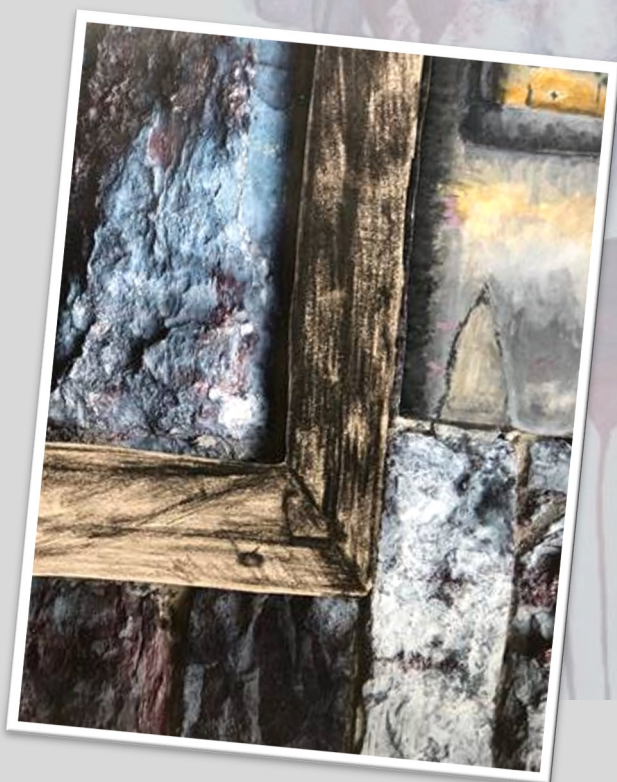


What's been going on in art (cont.)

Y9 – Etching



Y10 Artwork



What's been going on in art (cont.)

V&A

Y9 Art and Photography Trip to the V&A Museum, London.

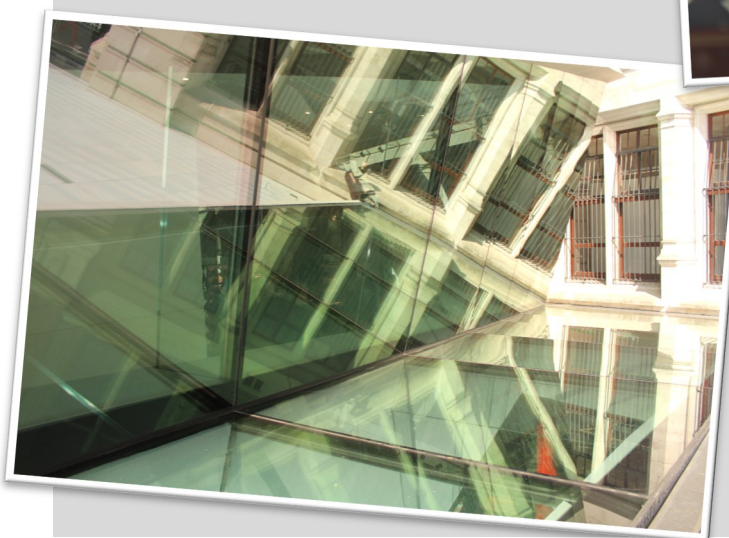
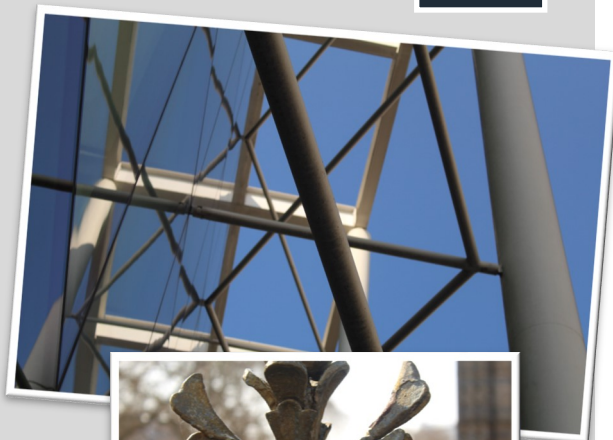
On Friday 29th March, Y9 Art and Photography students spent the day visiting artefacts and looking around exhibitions at the V&A Museum in London. The trip was for students to gather research for their forthcoming GCSE projects. Y9 artists looked at artefacts from around the world, including South East Asia, Islamic art, Japanese Art and Medieval art to inform their new project on Culture. They were able to draw and photograph objects first hand to aid their own design ideas.

Photography students spent the morning working with museum staff learning about the history of photography, exploring elements of the new

Photographic gallery and creating sunography prints. In the afternoon, students went out for a walk in the surrounding area of Kensington to photograph the architecture, people and natural forms surrounding the museum.

All students came away from the trip absolutely buzzing and full of new creative concepts for their future projects.

Here are a sample of the images created by the photographers!



Reading Schools Netball League – Girls

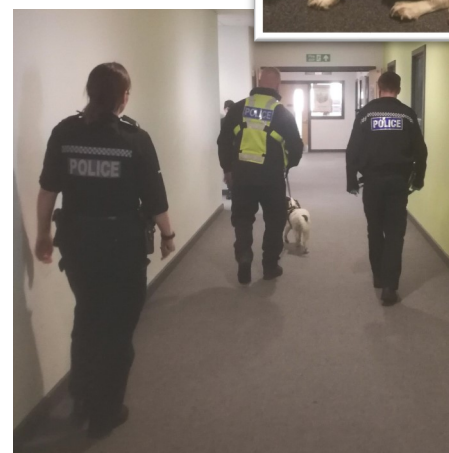
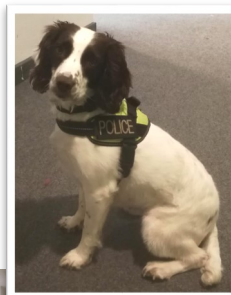
The girls have been practising hard every Monday for the Reading Schools Netball league and have shown true determination throughout every game they have played. The U14 girls have grown in confidence and after every game were determined to do better. Even though they didn't win very many games, they thoroughly enjoyed their time on court and can't wait for next season.

The U15 girls squad have managed to become very versatile when playing, with no hesitation, players swap positions and play some very nice Netball, especially against the stronger teams. The girls did themselves proud, seeing as they were playing in the U16 league, and are looking forward to their final year next year.



A visit from a four legged friend!

In March we welcomed a visit from Thames Valley Police and their Drugs detection spaniel called "Speedy". The team were invited in as part of our proactive response to the challenge of drugs in the wider community. The police officers accompanying Speedy had some excellent conversations with staff and students about their work and how the detection dog programme operated. We all enjoyed having Speedy with us and we look forward to a return visit.



TERM DATES

Summer 23 April - 24 May 2019
(Bank Holiday 6 May)

3 June - 24 July 2019

CPD Days 4 July 2019

Facilities Hire



Our fantastic school facilities are available for hire to the general public. Please click on the photo above for details.

March 2019 Parent Awareness Conferences

Over the last month, we have partnered with Maiden Erlegh School, Bulmershe School and Waingel's College to organise three parent conferences with the aim of informing parents and carers about some of the key challenges facing teenagers and parents today. Topics included Drug Addiction, On-line safety and Sexual exploitation. We were able to arrange some great expert speakers and the feedback has been very positive. As a result we will look to arrange further conferences in the future.

Extra-curricular Activities

[Click here to find a list of after school clubs](#)



Click on envelope to view recent communications



Click on the ParentPay logo to login and register your account.

Email queries to:
parentpay@maidenrleghschool.co.uk



Parent App -

Please contact us at
parentapp@maidenrleghschool.co.uk
for support.



We look forward
to welcoming
students back on
Tuesday 23 April