



Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

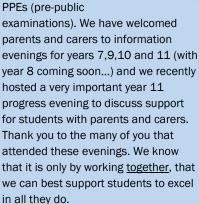
Maiden Erlegh School I 81 Crescent Road I Reading RG31 5SL I T. 0118 966 8065 I www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk I @MESReading

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

We have had a very positive start to the school year and we are very pleased to share some of the highlights of the last seven weeks with you in this edition of The Pulse. After five years of growth and development the school is now full and we are delighted to be the school of choice for so many in the local community. Our recent open evening was, once again, very busy with many students and families visiting to find out about what we offer. During the evening the school looked great and each curriculum team arranged fantastic demonstrations and activities. Above all I was SO PROUD of our marvellous students who were tremendous ambassadors for the school and were the perfect advert for the fine young people we want our school to nurture.

At the start of term, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students who have made such a great start to their studies. The year group, under the leadership of Mrs Benham, Head of Year, have fully engaged with our culture of hard work and high expectations in their lessons and many of them have been hoovering up huge numbers of house points! I am also delighted that so many are involved in the wider life of the school. As I write, we have over 30 year 7s at Tirabad, our outdoor education centre, which offers such a fantastic experience and nurtures personal growth, friendshipand fun!

Other year groups have also started the year strongly. For example, our year 9s have commenced their new Key stage 4 courses with great seriousness and intent and our year 11s have been sharpening their preparations and skills for final examinations in their



We were delighted to welcome a number of new staff to the team, both to the teaching faculty and to our support staff teams. I am so grateful for their hard work and commitment to our students and their endless pursuit of excellence and improvement. We have an ambitious school improvement and development plan and one of our initial priorities was to introduce a new praise and sanction approach to strengthen the positive culture in the school. This has been very positively received by students. We have also been planning improvements in our communication with parents and students. I am pleased to share with you that we will be rolling out access for the new Classcharts app (for students and parents) and the SIMS app (also now available for students) over the next few weeks.

Mr A Johnson Headteacher

CALENDAR		
4 Nov	Start of Term	
4 to 8 Nov	Year 10 PPEs RS Only	
18 Nov	Staff Professional Development Day (school closed for students)	
5 Dec	Year 7 Progression Meeting	
5 to 11 Dec	Year 11 PPEs	
9 to 13 Dec	Careers Week	
23 Dec to 3 Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	
6 Jan	Start of Spring term	

Н	OUSE I	POINT	TOTAL	S
	Griffin	Triton	Phoenix	7
	15,386	14,947	14,397	

Year 9 Information Evening – THEM, YOU, US

It was great to see parents at the Year 9 Information Evening on October 3rd. Year 9 is the start of the GCSE process for subjects, and the time the students start the subjects they have selected themselves. As such, I think it is important to start the year with a focus on how we can work today. The students, parents and the school – them, you, us. This was the main focus of the evening and I hope that those of you who attended found it to be informative and useful. The PowerPoint for the evening is available on the school website and includes the information shared by the Maths and English departments.

Miss B Davies



Year 11 geography students have been trekking down to Reading station this term as part of their human geography fieldwork opportunity that they are required to undertake for their examinations in summer 2020. They have been investigating whether the regeneration of Reading station, completed in 2014, has had a positive impact on the area. This involved students completing environmental quality surveys at three sites around the station to decide whether the built environment has been improved and whether it is attractive to customers.

Most students decided that the station has a very positive environmental quality score due to the quality of the regenerated pedestrianised area and the new station building itself. Additionally, students completed a land use map to assess how attractive the area is to businesses, and finally they asked members of the public to

complete an 'emoji questionnaire'. This is a relatively new interview technique which asks members of the public to pick the emoji that best describes their feelings, in this case regarding the regeneration of the station.

The geography team of Mrs Ellis, Miss Harrison-Smith and Mr Tomsett were extremely impressed with the students; they took the questionnaire very seriously and showed great resilience to keep asking their questions despite frequent rejection from members of the public. Overall, the fieldwork has been extremely successful. We avoided most of the rain and the students represented the school extremely well on the walk to and from the station. Now the hard work begins as we write up our findings in class so that students are fully prepared to answer questions on the fieldwork in their summer examinations.

Mr Tomsett



We have successfully integrated a new behaviour management system at MER this year. Teachers have been using an online system to record positive behaviour allowing students to get instant feedback on the successes they have been achieving in class and around the school site.

The buzz of positivity is really powerful which students have really engaged with. To ensure that students are being celebrated for their success, we have also integrated weekly celebration assemblies in year groups to allow students to be recognised by both their peers and teachers. Students now have access to their own ClassCharts account which they do via an app on their phones, or login via the computer. We are also using ClassCharts to log and set homework to give students greater autonomy and access to resources.



TEENTECH

Are you an innovator? Do you have an idea which could make life easier, simpler or better? We want you to use your imagination, to think creatively.

Once again, we will be running a programme for the 2020 TeenTech Awards. For the past two years we have been finalists in this national STEAM Competition. The competition is open to any students in Year 7-11 who have an interest in developing a STEAM project. The programme will be launched after half term and will run through until February 2020.

This is a chance to ask "What if?" or even build a fun example of what this might look like.

Working in teams of up to three to look at problems large and small to see if they can find a better way of doing things.

Categories include, Health, Education, Music and Media. You could also design a product which includes Transport, Fashion, and the Future of food.

The best projects go forward to the TeenTech Awards Final at IET London for judging and the winning school in each category will receive £1000.

For further information, look out for notices around the school, go to the website or speak to Mr Bradley in Technology.

www.teentech.com/teentech-awards/

Spare Uniform

Over the summer holidays lots of you will be replacing uniform that has been outgrown. If you have uniform that is in good condition, but is surplus to requirements, we would be very pleased to receive it to use as spares at school. Please hand any clean unwanted uniform to reception FAO Mrs Teale Inclusion.





Sexual Development in Children

As children get older, the way they express their sexual feelings changes. There's no doubt that children are exposed to sexual images at a far younger age and in more places than ever before, including music videos, websites and social media. So it's not surprising that sometimes children's sexual development can seem out of step with their age.

It's important that you have a good idea of what is normal sexual behaviour and can also spot the warning signs if something might not be quite right.

The NSPCC provides information for parents of children of all ages which helps explain what is usual at each stage of development <u>HERE</u>

Dyslexia Awareness Week

7th - 11th October 2019

During Dyslexia Awareness Week, our Big Screens around school showed information about Specific Learning Difficulty of a Dyslexic nature, and inspiring photos of famous people who are dyslexic and have found success in many walks of life, be they academic, creative, dramatic, political. All teaching staff were given a list of five features of dyslexia and five ways to support in class, to help them identify and support pupils who may present with dyslexia. Mrs Clarke, SENCO, spoke in assembly to year 7 and year 8 about dyslexia, and welcomed pupils to make contact with her if they feel they may need support with Specific Learning Difficulty of a Dyslexic nature, to ensure they can find success too.

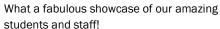
Open Evening – Wednesday 25th September



school on this evening, with many of them staying for the entire duration because there was so much to see and do. Thank you to our wonderful Student Ambassadors for giving so many parents a first class tour of the premises, and to the Head Boy and

Head Girl for creating a memorable Headteacher presentation with their peers.

Finally a big thank you to the staff and student helpers in all of the curriculum areas who made the evening so much fun for the visitors. Year 6 students (and some of their parents!) were leaving the school covered in stickers as they'd participated in so many different activities with many of them saying that they couldn't



wait to come and join us next September.





Welcome! In this issue our students have decided to take a stand.

Rachel, author of the article, has decided to explore a serious topic. She probes, challenges and questions her audience through an engaging style peppered with vivid descriptions and facts. Some students have taken a stand on various issues that concern them, by imitating the rhetorical style of Martin Luther King Jr.

Ms Barrett

For those of you who believe that this topic is not relevant to you, perhaps the ostrich is truly your spirit animal: the ostrich as you already know tends to bury its head in the sand to avoid predators, and, or problems. Most likely problems. But unlike ostriches, which are animals, it is our duty as somewhat superior mammals to be aware of our surroundings and to acknowledge problems within our society without trivialising them.

What I am writing to you about is that globally out of the 87,000 women who were intentionally killed, 58% of these women were killed by intimate partners or family members, amounting to 137 every day. I am also writing about the 650 million women and girls in the world who were married before the age of 18, who usually underwent issues such as early pregnancies often including fatal complications, social isolation and a highly increased risk of experiencing domestic abuse. Not to forget, the 200 million women and girls, alive today, that have undergone female genital mutilation; with girls sadly being subjected to such excruciating, life altering agony, many a time violated by their own mothers, grandmothers, and sisters who too went through the same torture; a vicious cycle all done simply in the name of 'honour', to prevent 'shame' being brought on their families. How much these little girls screamed? How much would they have begged for it to end? How much would they have had to suffer until they died?

What I am writing about is the constant fear, tribulations and abuse so many women and even sadly girls constantly face on a daily basis

throughout the world but particularly in war torn, patriarchal driven countries and communities. We often think as people living in the UK that this does not affect us as it is so far away as women here and in the majority of the Western countries have the right to vote, to be protected from heinous acts like abuse and many other similar privileges, and that the biggest controversy that we face is the pay gap or something similar. We can easily forget that there are still women fighting for basic human rights. The right to live and not to have to suffer under abuse and torture, the right to choose and make our own choices of our own freewill and simply to enjoy our existence through freedom. Let us not be oblivious to the fact that many of us could have easily been in these situations, forced to do things against our will, subjected to inhumane acts, and required to endure it simply because you were born a woman in the wrong place, at the wrong time.

Despite knowing all of this, are we going to excuse and ignore the horrific dilemmas that the world we live in creates? Are we going to hide simply because we are too young? We can do something, rather than nothing, even if it is a small thing such as bringing awareness to the topic.

So, you have proven to me that you are not an ostrich- congratulations- but a superior mammal who can show empathy and concern for the sensitive issues in the world. We have the ability to shape tomorrow with the actions of today. Let us do something.

Rachel - year 10

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

"Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder."

Rumi

"Your silence gives consent." *Plato* I have a dream that one day racism will be history Football will be played as if everyone were family. I have a dream that there will be no chants or salutes I have a dream that there will be nothing but sportsmanship.

Kaiden - Year 9

I have a dream that one day, in all countries, both genders shall be treated equally. Women will be able to work and not just have to handle the house. Let equality ring from the doors of houses, offices and every working place. One day women will be cheering equality at last! Thank God Almighty, EQUALITY at last! *Tanya – year* 9

"It takes nothing to join the crowd. It takes everything to stand alone." *Unknown* I have a dream that one day we won't live in a world where we are judged by our looks and just be free at last!

Free at last! Free at last! We can't change the way we look, but we can change the way we look at the world. Free at last! Free at last!

Nicole - year 9

"I'm for truth,
no matter who tells it. I'm for
justice, no matter who is for or
against. I'm a human being, first
and foremost, and as such I'm
for whoever and whatever
benefits humanity as a whole."

Malcolm X



"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything." *Mark Twain*

I have a dream that one day this world will no longer have to witness the riots and protests for climate change.

I have a dream that this world will rise up and take action for the devastation occurring on our beautiful planet.

I have a dream that one day, my grandchildren are able to witness this vast world and not suffer the consequences of people today.

Adam - year 10

I have a dream that children will read stories that are not on a plastic screen or glass. I have a dream that public libraries won't be full of eBooks

I have a dream that children will go and explore without using google maps.

Tonisha - year 10

I have dream that one day all violence will stop. I have a dream that all the wars in the world will come to a halt.

Let all the wars stop from the blood-stained countries!

Free at last! Thank God Almighty, friends at last! **Suhay! - year 9**



I have a dream that one day society will open their eyes to see the beauty within them. I have a dream they won't be blinded by the

I have a dream they won't be blinded by the dark light produced from their phones, staring blankly at pages upon pages of profiles...

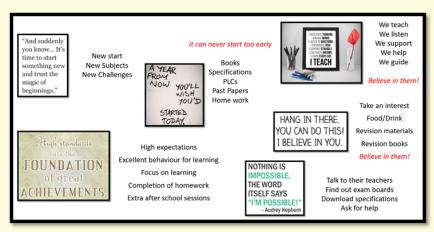
Bea - year 10

"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."

Albert Einstein

Welcome to Year 10!

We started the year well, the messages were clear and as a year group we developed. I was so proud at the end of Year 9 to be your Head of Year!



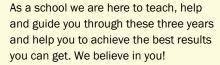
Now "The Climb" starts

This year we face new challenges! The RE exam, iMedia exam and coursework, work experience, CV writing, decisions! I know we can face these challenges head on, together and with a smile on our faces!

For students the hard work continues so please ensure you are talking to your teachers, finding out about your subjects and asking for help when you need it. The

most important thing is for you to believe in yourself, you CAN succeed and you CAN do well.

As parents please support your son/daughter by providing them with revision materials, ordering them the revision books or simply asking them how their day has been. It is important you believe in them and give them the boost they need.



YOU, THEM, US - that is my key message. I look forward to the year ahead and know that working together will mean that we will progress and succeed.



Year 10 careers and work experience

During Pastoral day Year 10 had the opportunity to log on to U-Explore and find out their ideal job based on their skills and qualities. This was a brilliant experience for them and gave them a variety of jobs to consider in the future. During the day they also had a talk from our work experience company. This is a great opportunity for Year 10 to enter the world of work in June 2020. They had a

short presentation and then spent some time filling in applications. Students were very excited about this and had some really good conversations about where they would like to go. It is really important students and parents/carers complete the application form and get these back to us. It is a VERY exciting time ahead for Year 10 and their career pathways!

School council

The first meeting was held where the new student council reps were introduced. We looked at how we can make school improvements and discussed ways of ensuring our school is greener.

Students then fed this back to their forms and collected some lovely ideas. As well as that, they thought about ways of rewarding wonderful DREAMers in Maiden Erlegh school in Reading.

Senior student ambassadors

Students have represented our key ethos and values by assisting with duties around the school.



Head girl, boy and deputies

Ensuring students have as much opportunity to get to first period on time, the senior student leadership group lobbied to get the school open slightly earlier. Contact has also been made with the head chef of the canteen to discuss issues and positive ways of moving forward. During open evening, Damini and Fahouaz conducted an excellent speech which highlighted the special nature of Maiden Erlegh and about and what their plans are for the future. This hopefully inspired future Maiden Erlegh students.



Ready-to-Learn Mentor

The Inclusion Team is pleased to welcome Mrs Claire Perry as our Readyto-Learn Mentor. Mrs Perry has already proved to be an asset to the school, in her work calming and supporting pupils

who are struggling to get into class for lessons. She works alongside the Behaviour and Inclusion Mentors as they provide extra



support for pupils around school each day in our Supported Study classroom and Inclusion area.

Speech and Language Therapist

Mrs Tanya Vlok (photo below) is our new Speech & Language Therapist. She visits school every two weeks to support pupils with Speech, Language & Communication needs. She liaises with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator and is

keen to offer strategies for support in school which are accessible for pupils and practicable for teachers to deliver.



Don't forget to register for Parent App

- School reports
- Attendance
- Behaviour and achievements
- Receive notifications
- School terms and inset days and much more

Click link below for information:

www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk/ attachments/download.asp? file=1407&type=pdf

Young Carers!

At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers. A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring unpaid for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. Research suggests there are at least 700,000 young carers in the UK, but many do not realise they are a young carer.

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well

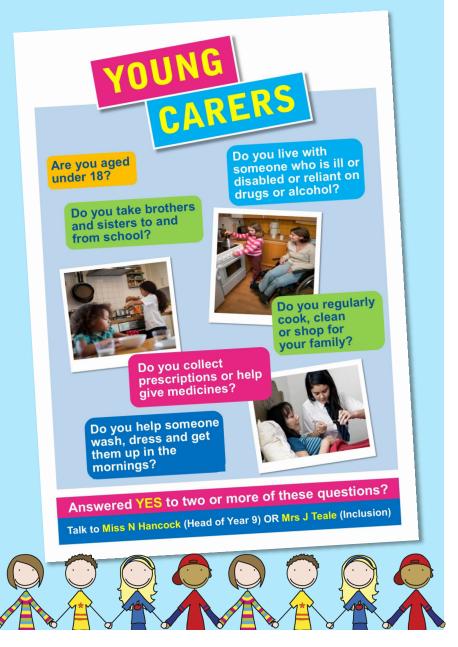
at school. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified, and supported effectively.

A letter has gone home, staff training and assemblies for all students have taken place. This is our first step to supporting the young carers.

If you know a young carer or you are a young carer please make sure you talk to Miss Hancock or Mrs Teale.

We are looking forward to the future and the support we will offer these students.

Miss Hancock & Mrs Teale





BERKSHIRE

TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

National Teaching School designated by National College for Teaching & Leadership

Are you thinking about kick-starting an exciting new career in teaching?

TRAIN TO TEACH EVENING



Tuesday 26 November 2019 7:00 to 8:00pm

Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road, Earley, RG6 7HS

If you have a degree, join us at our Train to Teach evening and find out about the School Direct route into teaching and train at a primary or secondary school in the Reading area.

Come and talk to our existing trainees and NQTs and find out about funding and how to apply.

We work with the University of Reading to provide high quality training and support. Pass rates are high and our schools often retain trainees through to NQT and beyond.

Register for our event by emailing teachingschool@maidenerleghschool.co.uk or get in touch via one of the options below.

0118 926 2467

www.berkshireteachingschoolalliance.co.uk







@berkshiretsa



Is your child violent towards you or a loved one?

If this applies to you and you would benefit from advice and support then you may be interested in this event in Wokingham which is free of charge.

For further information contact info@vrisesocialworkconsultancy.com



www.vrisesocialworkconsultancy.com

Pastoral Day

The whole school was afforded the opportunity to spend the day widening horizons through an off timetable pastoral day.

Year 7 learnt about the effects of bullying and trolling on social media and learnt about staying safe online, in addition to British values and mindfulness. The students were incredibly well behaved, engaged and had a jam packed day!

Year 8 looked into mental healthunderstanding, accepting and what to do to support positive mental health. Year 8 also explored anti bullying, the effects of social media, in addition to a knife crime session. Hopefully, these session provide a little food for thought in making students think about their actions before, not after an event!

Year 9 also learnt about anti bullying and social media. The 'Odd one Out' session seemed to be a very powerful tool! Year 9 also learnt about mental health, and British values, which focused on tolerance and acceptance of others. Year 9 were fortunate enough to have a guest speaker called Tessa, who delivered an engaging and thought provoking session on alcohol and its effects.

Year 10 had a great day looking into their future careers. They broke down their own skill sets and matched these with their areas of intrests; eventually coming up with possible sectors of work they may want to explore later in life. Building on this, the Business partnership in school presentation created much excitement with regards to their work experience later in the year. In addition to this, Year 10 also had a guest speaker called Paul Hannaford; an amazing, inspirational story of the effects of drugs, gangs, knives and prison and a powerful personal account of the damaging, and life changing effects this had on his life. More information on Paul can be found here https:// www.paulhannaford.com/

Year 11 spent the first part of the day at either Maiden Erlegh 6th form or at Reading College. Here they were given a taste of what both establishments offer at post 16 giving them a flavour of what to expect as part of the package. When they

returned to school, students then researched which open evenings they would target, what colleges/6th forms they were interested in and got to grips with the grades they needed.

In addition, all year groups learnt how to use our new interactive app called ClassCharts. All students were able to use their phones on this day to download, log in, and learn how they can use this app to support their schooling. Parents will soon received.

schooling. Parents will soon receive this information – this will be a great talking point when your children arrive home!

6th

Overall a great day was had by all and we thank the students for their engagement and interest in these sessions!

Assessment and Reporting

As we come to the end of the first half term you are probably getting curious as to how your child is progressing academically this year. As I hope you are already aware, this year sees a change in reporting strategy. We have now moved to 3 reporting points for each year group, the times of which will vary as best fits the flow of the course in that particular year group. Please see the school website for the details of when you will receive the report for your child.

To help you both understand the report and to help you support your child I have prepared a brief guide which I hope explains, in plain English, the meaning of each part of the report. You will find there an explanation of the difference between "Current Attainment" and "Predicted Grades"; a description of the "flight path" against which your child's current attainment is colour coded and the meaning of the colour used; a record of and explanation of the "Student Own Target" which has recently been agreed with you child; an explanation of the "Behaviour for Learning" codes, for which the full list is available on the last page of each student's report; the name

of the teacher for each subject should you have any subject specific queries about the report.

You will also find details of your child's attendance, punctuality, behaviour and achievement points for this year to date.

Mr G Attridge

Trust Lead for Assessment and Reporting

Assessment and Reporting Policy

Flight Path Explanation
What does the report tell me

Reporting dates

Behaviour for Learning codes



Coffee Morning

We are inviting local residents to an open Coffee Morning to come and share thoughts on: behaviour in the local community, traffic concerns before and after school and to show you our amazing school.

81 Crescent Road, Reading RG15SL 0118 966 8065 MERoffice@maidenerleghschool.co.uk www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk

It would be great if you could join us on:

Date: 8th November

Venue: MER school (come to reception)

Time: 9.30 - 10.30am

Staff: D Hood (AHT Behaviour and Culture)
Julie Foster (School Business Manager)

EARLEY ST PETER'S COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (ESPSA) PRESENTS



FIREWORKS SOLJOEL PARK

FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

GATES OPEN 6.00PM - DISPLAY STARTS 7.00PM

ADVANCE TICKETS: ADULT £7.50 CHILD £4.50 STUDENT £5.50 EVENING TICKETS: ADULT £8.50 CHILD £5.50 STUDENT £6.50

FAMILY TICKET £20 (ADVANCE ONLY)

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE OR BOUGHT AT THE GATE www.buytickets.at/espsafireworks2019/305831

* HOT FOOD - BAR - SNACKS - RAFFLE - GLOW NOVELTIES! *

MAIN EVENT SPONSORS





Extra-Curricular

With the term firmly under way, the extracurricular timetable is up and running with a bit of something for everybody. Now that Year 11 PPEs are looming closer and closer, the 'clinics' hosted by all the different departments within the school are showing great numbers of students attending – a brilliant sight to behold.

Watch this space – a number of students have spoken with Mr Rabin asking to run some student led extra-curricular clubs. Clubs that will be up and coming ...

Director's Club Pokemon Club Debating Club Card Game Club



Does that sound like something that, as a student, you'd like to be a part of, either running or taking part or both? Speak to Mr Rabin and see how you can get involved!

Footballing Ability

Delsey and Ibby (Year 10) have been working hard on a Wednesday afternoon, developing their high level footballing ability with Mr Rabin. They've shown massive determination during the sessions and a real motivation to improve and better, not just themselves, but each other.



European Day of Languages'

The MFL department ran a competition in honour of 'European Day of Languages' with Griffin achieving 1st place, Triton coming 2nd and Phoenix in 3rd. A huge

'gracias', 'merci' and 'thank you' to all those who took part and the staff that took the time to put on a competition for them.

The House system is also in full flow with

over 38,000 house points having been awarded – a



fantastic figure. At the time of writing Griffin are leading with 13,236 points, last year's winners, Triton, in 2nd on 12,932 and behind them snapping at their heels is Phoenix on 12,270. We are only a few weeks in and the scores are gigantic! Keep it up Maiden Erlegh.



BigRead

Congratulations to Samuel for his winning 'Big Read' entry. Reading a book underwater seems nigh on impossible but this boy found a way! Your prize will be on its way to you shortly.



Next Time

House champions and house captains. Who's who! Watch this space!

Our Year 7s head off to Tirabad on Monday 21^{st} for a week – see what they got up to next time.

There will also be reports about some of the year 7 and 8's trip to the Warner Brother's Studios as they venture into the world of Hogwarts and Harry Potter.

Extra-curricular Activities



TERM DATES

25 Oc

5 September -25 October 2019

4 November -20 December 2019

3 September 2019

4 September 2019

18 November 2019

Facilities Hire

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



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

CPD Days



Parent App Please contact us at parentapp@maidenerleghschool.co.uk for support.