



# The Pulse

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All



Maiden Erlegh School | 81 Crescent Road | Reading RG31 5SL | T. 0118 966 8065 | [www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk](http://www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk) | @MESReading

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I am writing this after the conclusion of our wonderful Christmas Arts showcase featuring excellent work and performances across the visual and performing arts teams. We have such a talented bunch of students and it is great to see how the Arts are flourishing at our school; this is such an important aspect of education and life! As a school we are working towards an Artsmark accreditation and the impact of this project can already be seen in the participation of so many students who show such confidence, poise and talent. Well done everyone.

Recently, it was wonderful to see hundreds of students taking the opportunity to raise money for charity by wearing a colourful or festive jumper. Consideration and concern for others lies at the heart of what it means to be a member of our school community and, as I reminded all students in a series of assemblies, taking pride in yourself motivates us to make selfless and good choices.

This term has seen a tremendous amount of hard work from students and staff alike. Year 11 students have been working diligently on their preparations for their final GCSE examinations and the PPE process is assisting them to identify their strengths and address their areas of weakness. I am pleased to say that the year group have taken seriously the message that these next few weeks are among the most important in their lives. Staff are working very hard to support and ensure that students are able to achieve the best possible results. We have also been working very hard to support this year group in their applications for post 16 courses and the vast majority of students have made

very strong applications to school sixth forms and other colleges.

Other year groups have also been focussed in lessons and making strong progress in their learning. We are celebrating the effort that students put into their work and many students have been recognised for this. I have been delighted and rather privileged to meet a steady stream of excellent students every Friday at "Hot chocolate with the Head". Every week I am reminded, once again, what fantastic students we have at our school.

Thank you for the feedback we have received about the introduction of the Classcharts app as a tool to support positive behaviour in the school. We know that many parents are finding this a useful way to track the house points students have earned, and an effective means of being notified about student homework. The staff team have been considering the best ways to use this tool and we are looking to continue refining our approach still further into 2020.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our support staff. We have such an enthusiastic team who really do go the extra mile for our students. In our community of over a 1000 people, our support staff are absolutely vital to ensure that the school runs smoothly and that all of our students are given the necessary help and support that they deserve – Thank you team!

As we approach the Christmas season may I wish you all a peaceful holiday and a very happy new year.

Mr A Johnson



## CALENDAR

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 23 Dec to 3 Jan | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS  |
| 6 Jan           | Start of term   |
| 6 to 10 Jan     | Year 10 PPEs  |
| 15 Jan          | Year 8 Options Evening  |
| 16 Jan          | Think Ahead Day   |
| 20 to 24 Jan    | Year 8 Assessment Week  |
| 22 Jan          | Apprenticeship Information Evening                              |
| 29 Jan          | Staff Professional Development Day (school closed for students) |
| 3 to 7 Feb      | Careers Week  |
| 3 to 7 Feb      | National Apprenticeship Week                                    |
| 4 Feb           | Careers Fair  |
| 6 Feb           | UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Years 9 - 11                  |
| 17 to 21 Feb    | HALF TERM   |

## Your Senior Student Leadership Team



Tayla, Damini, Fahouaz, Jakub, Katy, Amishi, Christo and Aryan are here to assist our school in delivering the ethos we strive for.



## THALES

### People Like Me

30 boys and 30 girls from Year 9 had the opportunity to take part in a People Like Me session. This was run by Thales and offered students an opportunity to do some team building tasks whilst also understanding some of the different engineering careers available to them. The students also got to complete different personality tasks to see what possible careers their personalities may be suited for. Students were really engaged, asking lots of questions and found this an interesting session!

I am sure we have some future engineers in Year 9!

Miss Davies

## Good luck to our students entering our first national competition in Foreign Languages!



Mixing art and foreign languages, our talented year 7 and 8 students designed a Christmas card in a foreign language of their choice within a house competition setting.

The best cards have been sent to 'Route into Languages' by Aston University in Birmingham for a chance to win the opportunity to have their card used as an

E-card for the University of Aston's language department. As well as this it will also feature on their website and be used in their publicity material. 'Route into Languages' is a government funded



organisation promoting the learning of foreign languages in schools in England.

We are wishing our students the best of luck.

MS Bourienne

## Year 10

We leave 2019 a stronger, better year group with very clear goals. We have had a positive start to the year with over 15,000 achievement points awarded. We have introduced a weekly success assembly where students are celebrated by being awarded tutor awards, head of year awards, attendance awards as well as a highest achievement point. This is a great start to the year and I hope this continues throughout the rest of the year.

The next two years are very important. As a year group we continue to have high expectations and strive for the best behaviour for learning. We know that as a team we can work together to ensure that learning is our number one priority.

2020 will be an exciting year for Year 10. We come back in January with our Pre-Public Exams (PPEs). Students have been provided with a revision document which lists the topics they need to be focusing on, as well as revision books and specifications they can use. The Christmas holidays is a great time for relaxing and celebrating, but also preparing for these exams. This will be

a great opportunity to see where we are at with all the different subjects, what we need to work on and what we need to do on the way forward towards our GCSEs. I wish Year 10 the best of luck with these examinations.

2020 also brings the excitement of work experience, thank you for a 100% return of the forms! This was a smooth process and the company are already sorting through the paperwork and allocating work experience placements. I know the students are very excited to get into the world of work. Between now and then, we will spend some time preparing the students for this, for example interview skills and CV writing.

Our year group New Year resolution is to continue to improve our attitude to learning, making the most out of our learning experience and focusing on the positives.

I wish you all a very restful, fun filled and relaxing Christmas holidays and I am very excited to see what 2020 brings for us!

## Eco Committee



The eco committee met for the first time and nominated Samuel to be their Eco Captain. Lots of ideas were accumulated and the committee is looking forward to assisting our school in becoming greener and having more of a positive impact on our planet. If you also have a passion for this topic, please speak to Mrs Pepper to see how you can be involved.



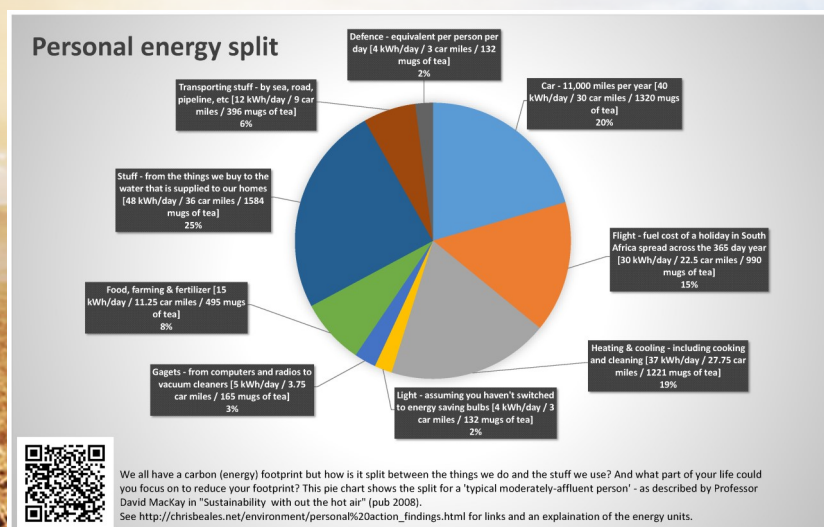


## Climate change conference

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr Tomsett and year 8 student William went to the Climate Change Conference organised by Brighter Futures for Children and Reading Council. The idea was to learn more about how we can, as a school and a community, combat climate change and our contribution to climate change. As well as work being done by the School Ambassadors Eco Group to reduce wastage in school, we are now exploring the possibility of developing a school garden to help educate students

across a number of subjects, including around the issue of climate change. More exciting news to come on this development in the near future! In the meantime, this striking graph demonstrates how we can all think about our impact on the climate. We can't all be perfect when it comes to our energy usage, but we can all do *something* to reduce it.

Mr Tomsett



## Economics Election Reflection

Yr 10 Economists were recently challenged to sift through information relating to the political frenzy running up to the election in order to assess each key party's economic proposals. They brought their research together in an exceptionally mature discussion allowing them to share knowledge of the key facts without overshadowing the situation with the political mayhem - quite a skill! The session was delivered by the students very professionally and gave them all a good understanding of the policies leading up to election day.

*"We discussed the manifestos of each political party and enhanced our knowledge to be able to comprehend what is going on in the UK and the economy at this moment in time"* reported Laiba (Yr 10 Economist)

An enjoyable and professional way to understand politics! Well done Yr 10!

Mrs Nave

## Student Charity Team

Year 8, 9 and 10 ambassadors held their first meeting to discuss ideas for raising money for charity. If you have any exciting and innovative ideas you would like to share, please pass them on to Miss H Williams or Mrs Pepper to help you to help others.

## HOUSE POINT TOTALS

| Griffin | Triton | Phoenix |
|---------|--------|---------|
| 25,885  | 25,673 | 25,132  |

## School Council

The school council met with Mr Clarke, the trust catering manager and the MESir canteen manager. Year 10 presented promising and well researched ideas about ways of improving the canteen options as well as expressing the positives. These will hopefully impact the future menus. Year 10 also brought quotes from fellow



students that had said how kind and great the dinner ladies and canteen staff are.

## 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:  
<http://www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1407&type=pdf>





## Arts GALLERY

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, the Arts faculty had their first ever “Arts Gallery”, a termly celebration of work from the Art, Drama and Music departments. This included work from both lessons and extra curricular activities. There were several music performances including the choir, led by Mr Bell, and solo and ensemble performances from all year groups. This year, we were delighted that three students were able to show their compositions and demonstrate their composing work, some of which will be GCSE coursework. The drama department have been working with groups of year 7s to create some mini plays, and these were enjoyed by all. As parents and staff entered, there was an extensive display of Art and Photography work from all years, demonstrating the

skill and artistic talent of the students. In all four subjects, there is significant talent and ability and this was clearly demonstrated at the Arts Gallery.

The Arts Gallery also included a presentation from the Arts group “Ultra Red” who are planning a week of Arts activities with students in January. Events such as these demonstrate our commitment towards our “Working towards Artsmark” status and students and staff are looking forward to seeing the result of this exciting initiative.

*Mr Butchers*







# "INFORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT" PARENT CONFERENCES

These events are open to Parents/Guardians of students attending  
Bulmershe School, Waingels College, St Crispin's School,  
Maiden Erlegh School and Maiden Erlegh School in Reading.

**Thursday 23 January 2020** 7.00 – 8.15pm

St Crispin's School, London Road, Wokingham, RG40 1SS

## **Drugs and Addiction**

*(This presentation is for parents and  
their secondary school aged children)*

Presented by **Ian Jeffreys**  
(Brighter Futures for Children)

To book a place at this event <https://www.crispins.co.uk/events/information-and-empowerment-parent-conference/>

**Wednesday 05 February 2020** 7.00 – 8.15pm

Waingels College, Waingels Road, Woodley, RG5 4RF

## **Online Safety**

*(This presentation is for parents and  
their secondary school aged children)*

Presented by **Adam Stockton**  
(Technical Support Manager and  
Online Safety Program Coordinator,  
McAfee UK)

To book a place at this event please email [parentconference@waingels.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:parentconference@waingels.wokingham.sch.uk)

**Tuesday 25 February 2020** 7.00 – 8.15pm

The Bulmershe School, Woodlands Avenue, Woodley, RG5 3EU

## **Mental Health – Teenage Anxiety**

*(This presentation is for parents)*

Presented by **Jacqueline Wood**  
(Educational Psychologist,  
Wokingham Borough Council)

To book a place at this event please email [parentconference@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:parentconference@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk)

Additional parent conferences in this series will follow later this year.  
Details will be sent out nearer the time.



Places are  
limited and will  
be issued on a  
first come first  
served basis.



## How are my child's benchmarks set?

In the October edition of *The Pulse* I gave some guidance about the assessment strategy at Maiden Erlegh Trust.

You have asked for further clarification about how benchmarks are actually set.

The brief guide "What does the report tell me?" stated:

The Benchmark (or target grade) is the aspirational grade that would put your child one grade above the average for students of their ability in their Year 11 GCSE exams.

In order to set a student and subject specific benchmark we use the statistical analysis provided by the Fischer Family Trust, a non-profit educational organisation that has been working nationally with school assessment data since it was established in 2001.

Using the prior attainment data generated at the end of primary school (KS2 SATS) and looking at outcomes for all students nationally in specific subjects with specific

starting points, FFT generate statistical estimates for students to achieve each grade on the 1-9 GCSE grading system. Schools can choose to use the estimates based on data from other similarly high performing schools.

These estimates are shared with students annually in the October student target setting window. From these estimates we then determine a median grade, which is the grade that a student with their particular KS2 SATS scores is on average likely to achieve in a high performing school. As this grade is an average we then set an aspirational target that is one grade higher than this. This is called a benchmark grade on the student reports.

For a fuller explanation with some examples and further detail please go to the full article on the school website.

<http://www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk/page/?title=REPORTING&pid=174>

## Careers and Post 16 Options



The year 11s have been hard at work with their PPEs. This is a valuable process to allow students to practise the examination process as well as allowing them to show what knowledge they have learnt.

Alongside this the students have been completing application for their Post-16 choices. The students have had the opportunity to gain careers advice from our external careers company Adviza, who have helped the students make more informed choices about their future.

## Berkshire Agricultural College

**BCA**  
Your College

Two groups of students have been spending a day out of school each week this term visiting the Berkshire College of Agriculture.

The year 10s have been experiencing taster sessions for the courses that the college offers post 16 and the year 11's are taking a level 1 Animal Management Course from now until the end of the school year.

A lot of fun, hard work and new experiences have been had by all, (students and staff). Some of these things have been the cleaning out of the goats, meerkats and llamas, feeding the spiders, toads and iguanas and handling the cockroaches!

Well done to all the students who have been attending the course, learning new skills and overcoming some of their fears.

## Please rise for your house champions...

Earlier in the term the new house champions for Griffin, Triton and Phoenix were revealed. Triton has been taken over by Miss McElhinney, Phoenix by Mr Galvin and, lastly (although worth mentioning they are currently in first place) Griffin by Mr Murphy. All house champions gave their opening house assemblies and set out their visions for the houses (Mr Murphy's Scottish accent will go down in school legend), as well as

inviting students to apply for the house leadership roles. Also, a massive well done to Layela, Sabe, Yasmin, Alicija, Sian, Rayhan and Laura for your entries into the MFL Christmas Card Competition! Griffin came 1<sup>st</sup>, Triton 2<sup>nd</sup> and Phoenix 3<sup>rd</sup>. Still all to play for in the house championship. Don't forget the Just Dance 2020 competition coming in January. Sign up in the main hall! May the best dancer win!





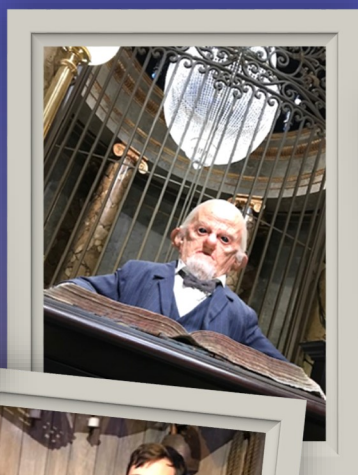


## Harry Potter Trip Year 7's and 8's



Remember, remember the 5th of November...  
surely a day the year 7's and 8's will not forget in any hurry.

Mr Rabin, Miss Davies, Miss Hussain and Mrs Wills took 50 students to Pinewood Studios to enjoy the Harry Potter Studio Tour. This successful trip has run every year and this year was no different. The students (and the teachers) got to experience the wonders of Hogwarts, walk on the real sets, bank at Gringotts (a newly added feature) and watch it burn to the ground via a fire-breathing dragon, take part in camera trickery, come face to face with death eaters and the best bit ... drink some butter beer. An amazing time was had by all and we look forward to next year's visit!







We're working  
towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

## Working Towards Artsmark

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading is delighted to have been accepted as a "Working Towards Artsmark" School. This follows the excellent work in all of the Arts (Art, Music and Drama) and demonstrates the school's commitment to the Arts.

Working Towards Artsmark status is not easy to get, and the school had to submit a detailed report written by Mr Bish and Mr Butchers on all of the Arts in the school and the vision for how the Arts impact the rest of the school, and we are delighted that Arts Council England have submitted our submission. The school has a vision to develop provision within the Arts, and to positively impact students' lives through the Arts, not only in Arts lessons but in other subjects and in our extra curricular offer.

Mr Butchers

## U12 Reading Schools Football League - Girls



The U12 girls have been practising really hard every Wednesday and Thursday for the Reading Schools football league and have shown true determination throughout all mini tournaments. Although the girls only won 3 and drew 3, it really didn't reflect the amount of hard work they were putting in. In blisteringly cold weather, the girls still managed to fight through player after player with some

excellent shots being fired at goal. The score line would have been even greater if it hadn't of been for Daniella in goal making amazing saves.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Year 10 Anne-Marie for all of her hard work during the training sessions and being an absolute asset to the girls with encouragement throughout the matches.

| PLAYED | WON | DRAWN | LOST | GOALS FOR | GOALS AGAINST | GOAL DIFFERENCE |
|--------|-----|-------|------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|
| 11     | 3   | 3     | 5    | 11        | 19            | -8              |

## Extra-curricular Activities

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



## TERM DATES

|         |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| Spring  | 6 January -<br>14 February 2020 |
|         | 24 February -<br>3 April 2020   |
| CPD Day | 29 January 2020                 |



## Facilities Hire

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

Click on envelope  
to view recent  
communications



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



## Parent App -

Please contact us at  
[parentapp@maidenerleghschool.co.uk](mailto:parentapp@maidenerleghschool.co.uk)  
for support.