

The Maiden Erlegh Marvel

A Warm Welcome

By Vigash Yr 8

Yes, I know what you're thinking. First, it's not warm; it's been raining for a while and secondly, who are you welcoming?

Well, I know it's been a few months but I just wanted to give the new year 's a 'Warm Welcome'.

I just wanted to say to year 7 how lucky we are to be in this school because it's safe, fun and different. And yes, as we get more students every year, school does get harder because you do harder work and the corridors are filled with hundreds of students.

But on the bright side, you make more friends and you have more adventures in school. For example, remember when Mr. Johnson did an assembly of being a YES person or a NO person. Are you a Yes person or a No person? And why did you pick that? Did you enjoy the assembly? But anyway, that's not the point - my point is that you are welcome to this lovely, new school because we are a community together. And don't worry - this school has a lot of fun and adventures planned for you until year 11. Good luck year 7s and ENJOY. 😊

Our MESiR Journey

By Emma and Miriam Yr 9

This has been our second full year at MESiR, and it has been very eventful, ranging from the things we do inside and outside of school. For example, last year, we were granted the great opportunity of going out in the neighbourhood, and producing speeches that we read out to the public. A group was made, Silver Programme, which enables students like myself to take part in activities to push us further.

Throughout the past month, we have taken part in the athletics competitions at Palmer Park. We came 6th out of 24 schools, and the boys came 3rd out of 24 schools, which was a great achievement for us as it was our first year competing, so we did extremely

well. Also, our PE teachers have arranged many fixtures for us including rounders, football and netball matches which made us feel representative of the school.

In addition, we have sought to be supportive of the terrorist attacks by making booklets of cards and writing condolence messages. We have also done many fundraising events for things like the WWF, homeless people and the Grenfell Tower attack. We did this by collecting money, cans of food and socks. It felt great to be part of the experience, and help the community.

Caring for the Environment

By Jan and Helene Yr 8



Have you seen the litter around the school or on the streets? Our school is barely a year old, and we already have to 'wade' through all the rubbish at break time and lunch.



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Attenborough's television programme 'Blue Planet II' footage was shown of a whale trying to eat a plastic bucket mistaking it for food. The plastic bucket had become lodged inside the mouth of the whale and prevented it from being able to eat. We want to stop this. Now.

Geography teacher, Mr Dean Harrison gave us his opinion on littering. "Littering is antisocial. Littering is lazy. Littering is environmentally unaware. We see a lot of litter from break and lunch. The school needs to be more aware that these times are pinch points for littering."

those of you who do not yet know, littering is throwing away, dropping or leaving rubbish lying around in public places thoughtlessly. Why not just use the rubbish bins provided?

Plastic is used to make many things that we use on a day-to-day basis. From clothing to crisp packets, and bottles to cars. Making things out of plastic is so popular because there are many types and it can be made into all sorts of shapes, colours and sizes. It is also very easy to work with. Plastics are man-made and can be produced from natural materials like coal and oil.

However, plastic also has its downsides. Enough plastic is thrown away each year to circle the Earth four times! The United Kingdom produces more than 100 million tonnes of waste every year and in less than two hours, the waste we produce would fill the Albert Hall in London. The problem is that not all plastic can be recycled, and usually ends up in a landfill. Rubbish that cannot be recycled is sometimes used as art. Most rubbish is disposed at a landfill site and left to biodegrade for thousands of years. Some waste is even thrown into the ocean!

A truckload of plastic enters the sea every minute. This is very harmful towards all flora and fauna in the ocean, and their extinction will affect us all. For instance, imagine that all of the cod in the sea died out. No more cod and chips. Ever. In David

Dropping a plastic bag, food wrapper or plastic bottle will cause a lot of damage to the environment. Litter is not just horrible to look at; it can cause serious road traffic accidents, kill plants, start fires and kill animals. It also attracts rats and thousands of harmful bacteria, which may cause illnesses and diseases.

A plastic bottle will take from 450 to even 1000 years to biodegrade! This is a great example of why you should recycle. A plastic bag will take 1000 years to decompose. Supermarkets have started charging their customers 10p for each plastic bag in hope that it will push people towards re-using them.

Recently, Year 8 Silver Programme students have attended a 'UN Model Climate Change Conference' at the Reading Civic Centre where they debated about the effects of global warming on different countries.

You could do some small things to help your local environment. If you see someone littering, pick it up after them and throw it into the bin. At home, you could have a separate bin for recycling and food waste. Make sure you use things to their fullest potential, for example plastic bottles. Re-fill them until they become dirty.

I really hope that I have made you think about how much of an impact littering can have.

Muggle Students Invade the Wizarding School of Magic

By May yr 8

We were thrilled when we arrived at our destination, Warner Brother's Harry Potter Studios. We had arrived at the set for 8 fantastic films based on the brilliant series written by J.K Rowling herself. As we entered the building, a tour guide led us into a room that displayed the legacy and history of Harry Potter. Later, a talk was given about the content of the building and just what exactly we were about to experience.

There were roughly three main areas to the tour. The first was accessed through the huge doors of the Great Hall of Hogwarts. First, we were shown the costumes, the gargoyles, the furniture, even the flagstone floor, the oak tables created for the films which were then aged using axes and chains; they even encouraged the Hogwarts pupils to carve their own graffiti into the wood to make it feel more like a school.



Next, we entered an Aladdin's cave of iconic sets, props and information. It was any Harry Potter fan's dream come true to see the Gryffindor Common Room (complete with a portrait of the young Prof McGonagall), the boy's dorm, the Potions Classroom, the Ministry of Magic and so much more. It was truly stunning to see Rowling's words come to life as well as being so near the sets you could almost imagine you were a student at Hogwarts. We even had the chance to have our photos taken riding a broomstick wearing the uniform of the school of wizardry and magic, which was an amusing sight for most of us. A new feature had opened just in time for us to see - The Forbidden Forest, filled with eerie woodland features and fog as well as an animatronic Hippogriff there to greet us.

Afterwards we went outside to see a triple decker night bus parked just outside 4 Privet Drive. Nearby were some chess pieces from the Chamber of Secrets and then another part of the tour showed the process of creating the mythical beasts of Harry Potter. Some creatures had been created from scratch with intricate details; others were animated with very realistic features. Then we discovered the magic of Diagon Alley with Gringotts Bank at one end and the Weasley Brother's joke shop at the other. Eventually, we walked on to see the glorious Hogwarts Castle model all lit up from inside and tinted by the fluorescent lights on the ceiling. There are few words to describe how magnificent and impressive the model was, but it did prove how much of a masterpiece the Harry Potter series is from page to screen to our hearts, stories that will forever remain classics.

No More Christmas in the Cold

By Laiba and Kara Yr 8

In the UK, there are more than 250,000 homeless people huddling on the streets, struggling through night and day, having to beg for money to stay alive . But what causes this? There are many reasons for homelessness such as poverty, unemployment, lack of affordable housing, poor mental or physical health and family breakdowns; all of these can be the reason why people remain homeless.

Some people don't like rough sleepers, so they rush past them on the streets without a second glance. However, if you stop to listen to them, they will probably have a story to tell that is worth listening to. Their story may start sadly but it could yet have a happy ending and you could help.

As a school we had a month of "BOXTOBER" where we donated boxes to school, filled with things that are needed when you have no money of your own. In the boxes we included personal grooming products such as deodorant, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a comb, a brush, tissues, toilet paper, travel size soaps and shampoo, baby wipes and in addition, gloves, hat and a scarf. Because it was Christmas, we also put in sweets and a Christmas card to show that people actually care about them and that not everybody wants to push them away.

These boxes will be donated to a local shelter which provides food for people who are sleeping rough this Winter, including people who are homeless. The boxes will be distributed and will hopefully make a homeless person's Christmas, as after receiving a box,

they will know that people care.

Interview with Mrs James

Q: What is Boxtober and why do we celebrate it?

A: Boxtober is the month that we set aside to create boxes full of everyday necessities for the homeless people of Reading. We do it to show them that that someone cares and to free them from a Christmas in the cold and dark streets of winter life.

Q: Who inspired you to do this?

A: a man who told me the story of his life and how he lost everything important to him (his wife, children, house and eventually his will to live) due to no fault of his own.

Q: In your opinion, what is the biggest cause of homelessness?

A: There isn't one cause - there are many such as drug and alcohol abuse, marriage break ups and mental health issues.



Kick Out Bullying

By Vigash Yr 8

I know what you're thinking: are people bullied in Maiden Erlegh School in Reading? The answer is 'No!' because our school is a lovely school with lovely students, lovely teachers and a lovely building. But I'm here to talk about bullying outside of school in public.

So, first of all I want to talk about bullying in general such as physical bullying, for example, beating someone up or emotional bullying, such as saying mean things that can hurt you. Now, if you're being bullied, tell someone. You're not a snitch. Or just use the bullies' weapon against them – say 'thank you' or ignore them, because the bully just bullies you to make you angry or upset, but by using the bullies' weapon you can defeat them. So if you do that all the time to a bully, as if you don't care, the bully will become weak and bored of you and leave you alone. Now, if you see someone being bullied, don't bully them as well and don't be a bystander: help them and that way, you won't be a bully.

I know that's a lot to take in, but that's because I'm about to talk about the most horrible way of getting bullied which is cyber bullying. So if you're thinking there is no way of getting bullied online, well, you're wrong. There are many ways of being bullied online such as if you have social media, people can add you as a friend and say mean things to you or pretend to be someone that they aren't for real. The most horrifying thing is someone stalking you in your personal space. But if you're being bullied online, there is a way of stopping it. Report them, block them, tell someone you can trust and don't use social media that's not for your age. So remember, don't add friends that you don't know, block them straight away or just ignore them.

I know that was a lot to take in but just don't be a bully or if you're being bullied, just ignore them or tell someone you trust and be safe online.



Mabel from the Reading Drop-In Centre collects the gifts, cans and money collected by MESiR students.



Based in the centre of Reading, CIRDIC is recognized as a safe and welcoming drop in centre to many homeless people who are disadvantaged and living in the local community.



By Karan Yr 9

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading organised a Macmillan Cancer Hot Chocolate Morning on Friday the 29th September. This is due to a student who brought up the idea of doing something like a Macmillan Coffee morning. But Mrs. James said, "Why do a coffee morning? We could do a Macmillan hot chocolate morning." I mean, many people would prefer hot chocolate rather than a cup of coffee. The hot chocolate costs only a one pound donation. The main point of this was to raise money for cancer research. Mrs. James is also organising another event, not Socktober but Boxtober, so you'd better get your boxes ready, and work your socks off.

I Gave Cancer
A High Five
IN THE FACE
With My FIST



Visit to 3M Company

By Karan Yr 9



On Friday, the 23rd of February, a group of students went to visit the company 3M in Bracknell, as part of the STEM Project (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics). 3M is a science-based technology company whose aim is to improve lives and business in one way or the other. 3M applies science to creating products that, in big ways and small, make things better in some way, like using an unbreakable (nearly) glue, instead of using screws in a plane which eliminates the problem of screws coming loose mid-flight and causing a disaster. Instead the glue helps people to be safe. 3M has a vision: their technology advancing every company, their products enhancing every home and every innovative idea will improve life in one way or the other.

When we arrived there, we were presented with a list of challenges for which we had to use a range of different skills - . team work, co-operation, problem solving, trial and error and to be able to think outside the box. We were accompanied by Mrs Escott-New and Mr Harrison who said about the trip: "The 3M trip was excellent showcasing the technology involved in developing many fascinating and innovative products."

We then toured 3M's display of innovative ideas and products. One student said the products were "amazing."

In addition to that, we also interviewed some of the people who work at 3M, which led us to understand that 3M wasn't only designing post-it sticky notes. It stood for Minnesota, Mining and Manufacturing Company, telling us something of the company's origins.

We had a great time and were really interested in variety of careers on offer at this local, innovative company.

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