



ThePulse

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The second half of the Spring term has had its fair share of snow which led to some disruption. This, however, hasn't dented our determination to focus on the development and learning of our students. Students have continued to work hard and, due to the support of our expert staff, are making great progress. This half term has seen a particular focus on assisting Year 8 students with their option choices. We have developed a broad and balanced curriculum "offer" which makes provision for different students with a variety of interests and our information and guidance programme has been particularly strong this year. We want all students to succeed and we think our Key Stage 4 programme gives students the opportunity to do just that. We have held a Careers fair, an options evening, taster lessons and a student progress (parents) meeting and many students have been discussing the particulars of courses with members of staff and curriculum leaders. Every single student has been offered a one to one meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss or review their option choices and I have been extremely impressed by the way that Year 8 students have been carefully considering their choices and making very wise decisions.

I am delighted to be able to report that the school is, once again, oversubscribed for 2018/2019 with more families than ever choosing Maiden Erleigh School in Reading. This is important as not only does a full roll mean that we receive maximum funding, but it also indicates the value of our new school to the local community. Through the remainder of the year we will be working hard to ensure that the new Year 7s will have a great start in September.

Thank you to all parents who completed our annual survey. We will publish the main results on our website in due course. Our annual survey is important as it helps the leadership team to understand how the school is developing and ways we can improve in the future. The survey results will feed into our school improvement plan for 2018-19, which I will share with you later on in the summer term.

In addition to the hard work and focus that is going on in lessons, our rich and varied extra-curricular programme continues to be well attended and a number of trips and visits have been planned.

Finally, two recent events for me really illustrate the ethos of Maiden Erleigh School in Reading. The first was the assembly led by a number of our Nepalese students and the second was the very well attended charity Netball game between staff and students (more details in this newsletter). These events show the value we place in supporting others – whether they are from a different culture or whether it is supporting those who are less fortunate than ourselves. They exemplify empathy and selflessness and show the true character of many of our students and the tolerant and supportive school we are developing.

I wish you all restful break over the Easter holidays.

Mr A Johnson



CALENDAR

30 Mar - 13 April	Easter Holidays
18 April	Year 9 Pitt Rivers Museum Trip
26 April	Year 9 National Portrait Gallery Trip
26 April	UKMT Junior Maths Challenge
27 April - 4 May	Year 7 Tirabad
30 April - 4 May	Year 9 Assessment Week
10 May	Year 7 Parents' Evening
21 May	Year 7 Assessment Week
28 May	Half Term

French and Spanish intervention club

In the MFL department we are pleased to announce that every Monday after school we will be running a French and Spanish intervention club for Year 9 students. This is an opportunity for students to have extra support outside their class. They could revise their French/Spanish work, complete homework or look at an aspect of the language that is not clear. This is a wonderful opportunity offered by the team to enhance confidence in French and Spanish.



MFL club on
Monday afternoon
from 3pm until 3.30pm
in Room 105

Student trip to the theatre to see The Lion King

On the afternoon of January 31st, a group of 5 staff and 48 Year 7, 8 and 9 students left for London to go to see The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre in London. The building excitement could be felt (and heard!) the closer we got. We had an unexpected bonus of a brilliant tour guide (A.K.A Miss Burns!), who kept us riveted with information about the London attractions we were passing, including the London Eye, Big Ben, and Scotland Yard, to name but a few!



As for the show itself, I think the students and staff will never forget the theatrical event that is Disney's The Lion King. Disney's beloved film has been transformed into a spectacular stage production that explodes with



glorious colours, stunning effects and enchanting music. At its heart is the powerful and moving story of Simba - the epic

adventure of his journey from wide-eyed cub to his destined role as King of the Pridelands.

It was a pleasure to look across and see the students so mesmerized by the performance. That coupled with the fact that the students were a credit to the school, being well behaved, polite and listening to instructions, made all the paperwork and risk assessments worthwhile!

Finally, who better to give a review of the trip, than the students themselves?

"My favourite part was the songs and the way the costumes looked. It was a good experience and I recommend you go!" - Kinza , Year 7.

"It was an amazing production. It was amazing how they manage to jump around when they are in their costumes!" - Toby, Year 8.

"I thought it was funny and the costumers were very creative" - Keiyani, Year 9.

Mrs Bush



Nepalese Assembly



On Wednesday 14th March I had the great pleasure of seeing the fruition of weeks of rehearsal for a Nepalese Assembly.

Our Nepalese students had agreed to do a presentation on Nepal and the boys and girls set about preparing two dance performances and a presentation on the culture and history of their country of origin. Weeks of practice in the Main Hall followed, with many staff coming to tell me how impressed they were, not only by the dancing, but by the wonderful behaviour of the students too.

The grand performance was amazing. They looked fantastic in national dress and all the dedication paid off, the dances were flawless. I think everyone present learnt something and enjoyed their Nepalese experience. Well done to the year 9 and Year 8 students involved! You made us very proud!

Mrs K James



Think Ahead day - 21st February 2018



On Wednesday 21 February we suspended our normal timetable for a special day where students focussed on thinking /learning skills and their future. The day was entitled "Think Ahead"

Our three year groups each had a different focus for the day:

Year 7 had a series of sessions to help them understand how they can develop as better learners, collaborate in their learning and grow learning resilience.

Year 8 took part in special options taster sessions. This provided them with an opportunity to experience some of the subjects to consider for their Key Stage 4 options

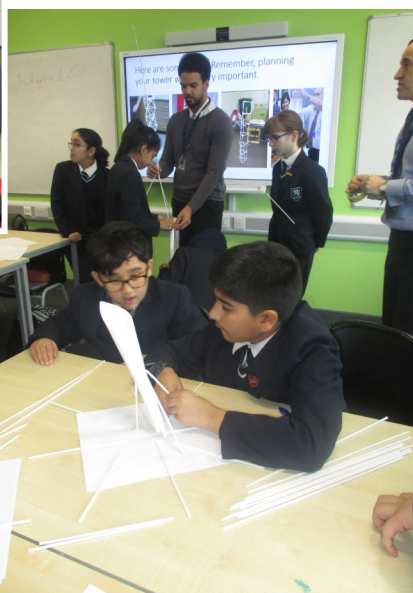
Year 9 had a series of sessions focussed on developing the more advanced skills, attitudes and approaches they will need to be successful in their GCSEs

Staff worked extremely hard to plan and present an excellent day that really stimulated and stretched students in different ways. The catering team also



designed a special menu for the day which went down very well.

The feedback from the day was very positive with many students commenting that it was just what they needed to help and support them. Students also appreciated being able to stay in their tutor groups for a whole day (which they rarely do).



Local Advisory Body (local governors)



The local Advisory Body (or LAB) is a key part of the governance structure of the school. It is made up of volunteers with a range of skills and experience who have been elected or appointed to support the school and its leaders in developing a great school and delivering excellent outcomes for our students. Our LAB are excellent "critical friends", supportive of the leaders but also ready to ask tough questions to ensure that we are doing everything we can for our students. LAB members meet as a group at least termly but are also often in school to see the school in action and to meet with members of staff to discuss key areas of the school's work. We are very grateful to the LAB members for the significant time and effort they commit to serving the school and its families. Members of the LAB can be contacted via the school office: MEROoffice@maidenrleghschool.co.uk

More information about the work of LABs and Maiden Erlegh Trust governance more generally can be found here: <http://www.maidenerleghtrust.org/>

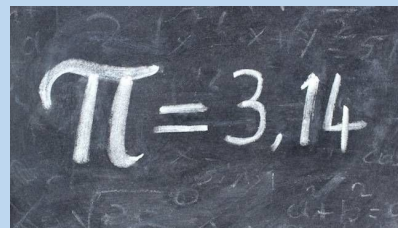


Maiden Erlegh Careers Fair

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance



Pi Day



March 13th, or 3.14, is known as Pi Day. At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading we decided to celebrate this day across all subjects! From a poster competition for tutor groups, a different mathematical starter for every subject, to even having pie for lunch!

There were many different opportunities for students to learn about Pi throughout the day, whilst also highlighting maths across the curriculum.

The poster competition is ongoing and the winning posters will be shown in the next Pulse edition for you to see!

On Tuesday 6 February evening we were delighted to participate in the annual Maiden Erlegh Trust Careers Fair at the Silverdale Road School. This event is aimed at students from years 8 and 9 as part of the support given to them in choosing GCSE options and also to help them plan ahead for important career decisions in the future.

Approximately forty-five companies and organisations sent representatives to the event, providing extremely valuable guidance on Careers and Further and

Higher Education choice for the students of our two schools.

The experts came from the fields of engineering, science and technology, animal care, creative media, graphic communication and journalism, finance, retail, the construction industry, the legal profession, the medical, midwifery and nursing professions, the police and uniformed services, project management, teaching and information technology.

Also available were representatives from Further and Higher Education who were able to help our students to explore their educational choices beyond the age of 16.

The students took advantage of the event and turned up in large numbers. Being able to speak to people about what they enjoy about their job gave the students valuable insight into what might be involved.

School Pick Up



Thank you to parents who have responded to our request to be considerate of our neighbours when picking up students – especially at the end of the day. We continue to have a few complaints from neighbours about cars parking across driveways and/or engines left running. We would be most grateful if parents could avoid this and park away from the school and in designated spaces.



Technology and STEM busy term!



Students involved in Technology and STEM activities have been very busy working towards completing their project work and submissions for National Competitions.

Currently the Technology students have been working on a project competition for 3M in Bracknell. Along with Gold Programme students, Year 9 technology students have been designing and making products to improve the quality of life for young people with visual impairment. The challenge has been to design and make a product that meets the brief and is made from recycled and sustainable materials. This has proved challenging, but the outcomes have been very innovative.

The Year 9 Visual Communications students have been entering the Starpack packaging competition with a range of design briefs set by packaging industry leaders.

Finally, the Green Energy Technology group are reaching the end of their TeenTech Awards projects. The students have produced a diverse and detailed range of projects that have sought to use some form of alternative energy.

The deadlines for these projects are all before the end of term, so we will update on how the entries got on next term.



A busy Year 9 practical lesson

Year 8 Options Evening –

Wednesday 28th February

Despite happening on the evening prior to the arrival of the #beastfromtheeast, the Year 8 Options Evening was well attended by students and parents braving the freezing cold weather. Parents and students were given a brief presentation about KS4 by Mrs Elliss and then they were able to visit the Options subjects. Students were able to see some examples of Year 9 work and to find out about the examination requirements in each of the options subjects. It was an informative evening which helped students make some decisions about which subjects to choose to study in Years 9-11.



British Science Week

On Monday 12th March we celebrated British Science Day as part of British Science Week which is a national event organised by the British Science Association.



In each of their lessons students watched a short biography about a British Scientist. Alexander Fleming and his discovery of penicillin, the role of Rosalind Franklin in the discovery of the structure of DNA, Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Maggie Aderin-Pocock who currently presents The Sky at Night on television, were all featured.

We also had a visit by Dr. Nigel Page from Kingston University who talked to year 9 students about his work as a scientist. After school he did a Question and Answer session and judged the Poster Competition that all students were invited to get involved in.

Poster Competition Winners:

Top 3:

- Yasameen Al-Aidy Year 7, Yaqeen Al-Aidy Year 8 & Maheen Raza Year 7
- Eliza Rozek Year 8
- Kate Gonsales Year 9



**BRITISH
SCIENCE
WEEK
2018**

Runners up:

- Shaasavatha Ramachandran Year 7
- Yasmin Loutari Year 7

These 5 posters will now be entered into the British Science Association National competition.

It was great to see so many posters of such an incredibly high standard that impressed Dr. Page.

Congratulations to all the participants and the winners.



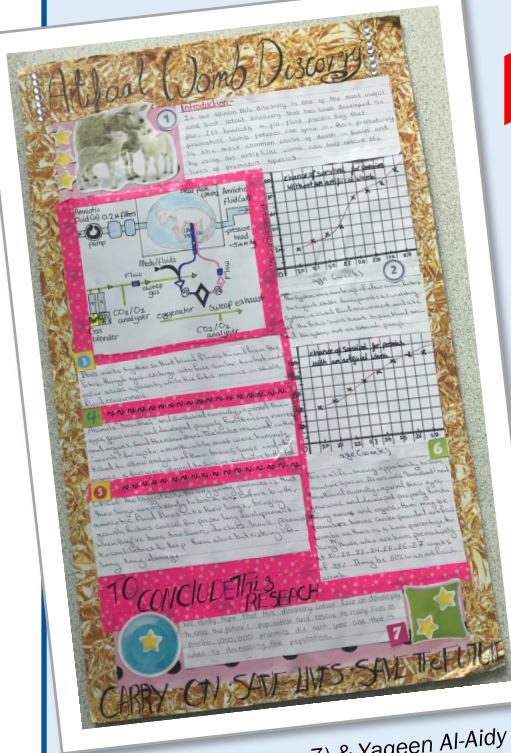
Dr. Davies
Science Department



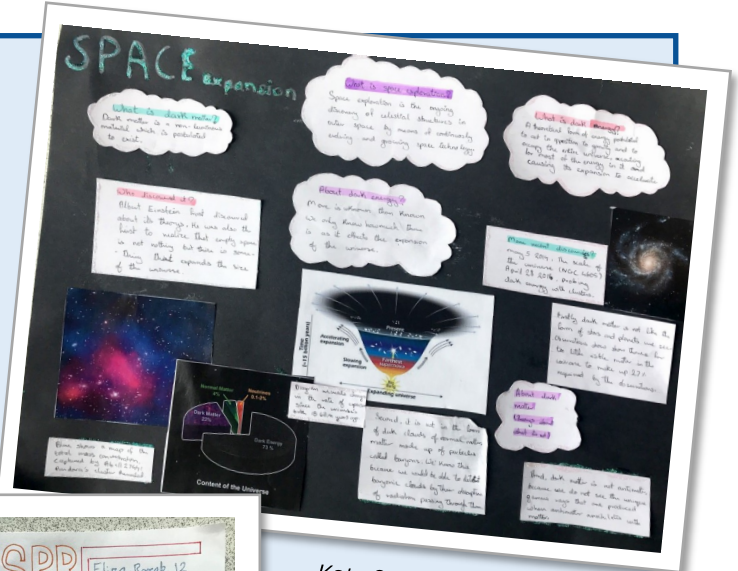
British Science Week Poster Competition



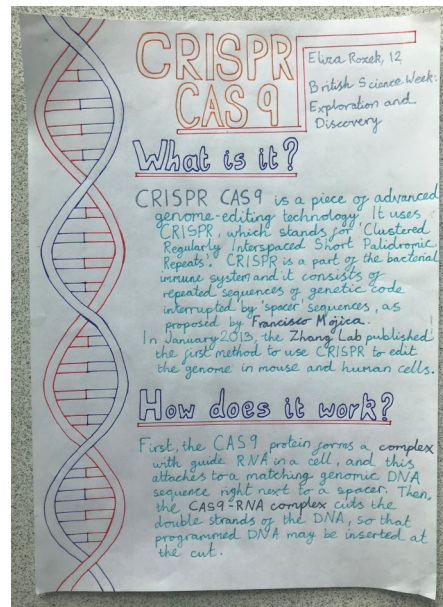
TOP 3



Yasameen Al-Aidy (Year 7) & Yaqeen Al-Aidy (Year 8) & Maheen Raza (Year 7)

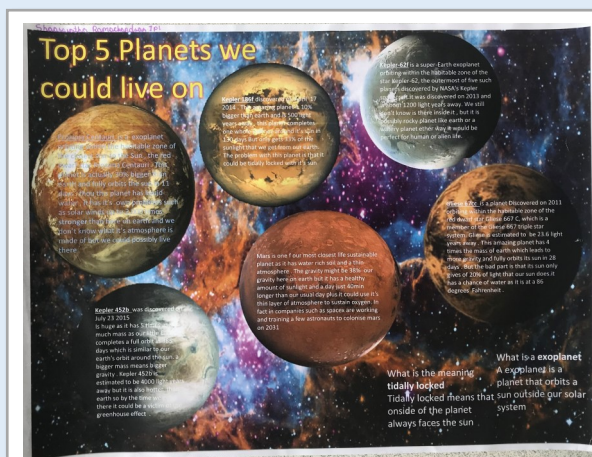


Kate Gonsalves (Year 9)

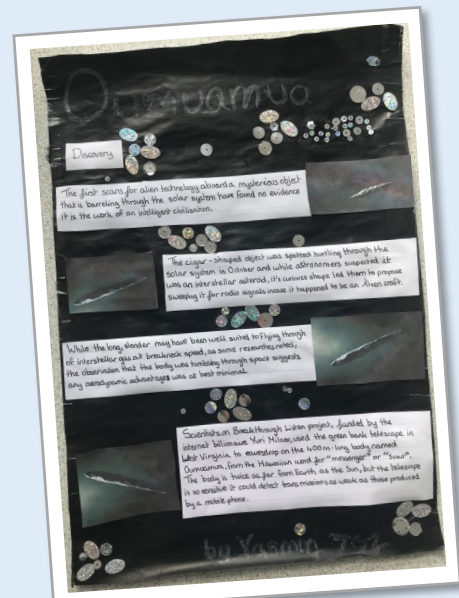


Eliza Rozek (Year 8)

RUNNERS UP



Shaasavatha Ramachandran (Year 7)

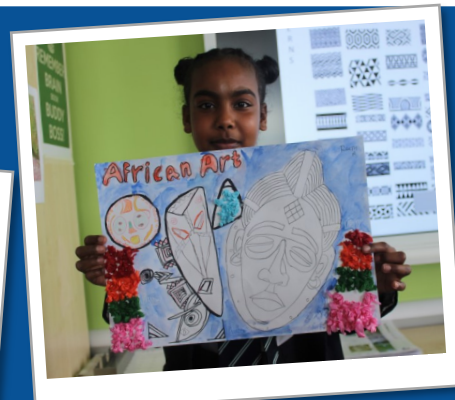


Yasmin Loutari (Year 7)



What's been going on in Art?

Year 8 African Masks



Year 9 Culture Pots



Year 9 Photography -Wasim Amin



Sport

Reading Schools Netball League - Girls



The girls have been practising hard every Wednesday and Thursday for the Reading Schools Netball league and have shown true determination throughout every game they have played. The U12 girls only started playing Netball this year and have grown in confidence after every game. Even though they didn't win very many games, they thoroughly enjoyed their time on court

and can't wait for next season. The U13 girls started their league well only conceding a couple of goals in the first round against some very strong opposition. As the weeks progressed, so did their playing ability and after some even more strenuous games came 8th overall. This is a huge improvement from last years placings so well done. Finally, the most experienced team of the school, came joint 7th overall in the league, this again was an improvement from last years placing. The U14 girls squad have managed to become very versatile when playing, with no hesitation players swap positions with only 2 minutes between mini games and this can prove mentally challenging, especially going from attack to defence. The girls did themselves proud and have the state schools tournament to look forward to later. Well done all.



Sport Relief Day Teachers vs Students Netball Match

Maiden Erlegh in Reading hosted its first ever Teachers vs Students Netball match on Friday 16th March to raise money for Sports Relief. Sport Relief, the charity is able to help those with an incredibly diverse range of needs. Whether they are living with mental health issues, in need of maternal

healthcare, or even at risk of human trafficking or domestic violence, you can help them – whether they're in the UK or further afield.



With wonderful weather and a great turn out of supporters the afternoon was a great success!! The match itself was a fiercely competitive event which had the spectators gripped throughout the

match. The students started very strongly and lead 1-0 after the first quarter. The teachers came out with a much stronger showing for the rest of the match and eventually came away 10-5 winner, come on the teachers!

All in all a wonderful afternoon for a great cause and most importantly we raised **£52.10** for Sports relief!!



TERM DATES

Term 2	3 January – 9 February 2018
	19 February – 29 March 2018
Term 3	16 April - 25 May 2018 (Bank Holiday 7 May 2018)
	4 June – 24 July 2018 (Open Evening 4 July 2018)
CPD Days	4 September 2017
	5 September 2017
	13 November 2017
	17 January 2018
	5 July 2018

Facilities Hire



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

Extra-curricular Activities

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



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