



# 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 first half of the spring term is always very short but with a great deal of school life "squeezed" in. I have been impressed with the way our students have returned from the Christmas break, refreshed and ready to work hard. We were delighted to open our Breakfast Club at the start of term and it is already proving to be very popular. This term we are working very closely with our Year 8 students as they prepare to make option choices, giving the advice and guidance to help them make positive and appropriate choices about what to study next year. Their attitude towards Year 8 assessment week has been excellent and is testament to their focus and commitment. Year 9 are also thinking about the future and have been attending special careers seminars to hear from people in a range of different professions. Behind the scenes we continue to develop and grow our staff team as we look forward to an additional 180 students starting with us in September and early indications suggest that, once again, we will be over-

subscribed for September 2018.

I was very pleased to welcome to the school the "Jubilee Headteachers' Network" on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Ten Headteachers from other good and outstanding schools spent the day with us, finding out about our school, the work we have been doing and sharing their ideas and perspectives. The feedback from the day has been very positive and the Headteachers, as have so many visitors to the school, remarked on the calm and focused atmosphere. Students do well at Maiden Erleigh School in Reading because teachers have the opportunity to teach and students choose the right behaviours in their lessons. Once again I have to thank our excellent staff team who support the school and ensure that our standards remain high.



Mr Johnson

## CALENDAR

9 Feb	Arts Day
<b>12 - 16 Feb</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
21 Feb	Think Ahead
28 Feb	Year 8 Options Evening
2 - 9 Mar	Year 7 Tirabid
6 & 8 Mar	Year 8 Progress Meeting
12 Mar	Scholastic Book Fair
16 Mar	Easter Concert
<b>30 Mar - 13 April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>

## Facilities Hire



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

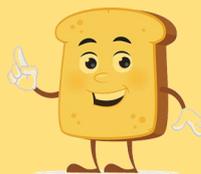


On the 8<sup>th</sup> January at 8 am the breakfast club at MESiR opened its doors for the first time to eight students. By the end of the first week the number of students had grown to twenty-three.

The breakfast club offers a variety of food with a choice of three cereals, toast, beans on toast, hash browns and

croissants from Monday to Thursday. On Fridays, we also have bacon and vegetarian sausage sandwiches.

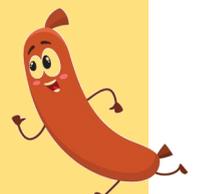
The students can start their day relaxing, listening to the radio, chatting to their friends or playing some of the board games that are available. Miss Langille has arranged with the Oxfam bookshop in Reading to supply us with about fifty books that the students will be able to read while at breakfast club or, if they



want to, they can borrow them and take them home.

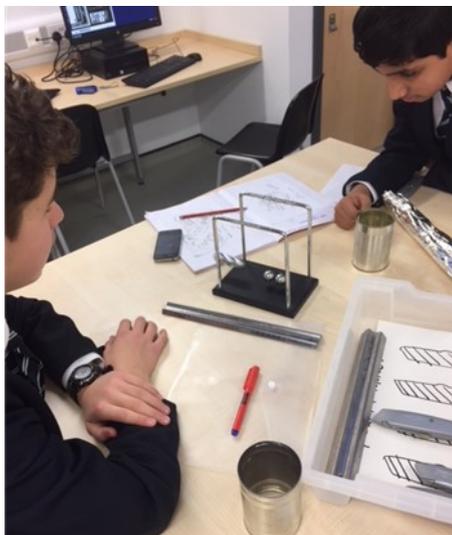
The feedback from the students has been positive, and out of fourteen feedback forms received seven said that the breakfast club is brilliant, five said it was very good and two said it was good.

The future looks bright for the breakfast club let us hope that it grows, from strength to strength.



## Green Energy Technology Club – GET!

The Green Energy Technology Club (GET) is set up as a joint Science and Technology department project. The focus is to encourage students to become involved in a 'real world' project based on Green Energy. The challenge is for students to



identify a problem and work in groups to provide possible solutions.

A number of Year 8 and Year 9 students were invited to attend the introductory session which outlined the tasks ahead. The plan is for students to enter their projects into the TeenTech 2018 awards. This is a national Science and Technology competition. We had success last year and gained a Silver Award. This year we are going for Gold!

The second session involved two experts in the field of Green Energy. Tony Cowling and John Booth. They gave up their time to discuss a wide range of topics promoting thinking about the environment and how the future of the planet is reliant on solutions in the way we use and generate energy. The students gained an insight into the local hydroelectric plant at Caversham Weir, electric cars, solar energy and there was a wide ranging discussion with some



great questions from students. This session really helped students focus their thoughts.

The sessions run weekly and already there are some great ideas and projects emerging that hopefully will provide solutions to more efficient use of energy which should benefit us all. The GET students have been very enthusiastic and are already planning the next stages of their projects.

**CIRDIC**  
Churches in Reading Drop in Centre

[www.cirdic.org.uk](http://www.cirdic.org.uk)

Churches in Reading Drop in Centre  
*An open door for the homeless and needy*

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017

Dear Principal, Staff and Students,

On behalf of CIRDIC, I am writing to express our deepest thanks for your recent donations. The cash totalled to an incredible £470.40.

Thank you also for the food and beautifully wrapped presents. It was kind of you to think of us as we depend heavily on the generosity of local organisations in continuing our efforts to help some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Reading.

Wish you and those close to you a Happy and Peaceful 2018.

Yours sincerely

Theresa Rodrigues  
Treasurer

## Examination Centre

Another milestone in the development of the school has been reached this month as we have now been officially accredited as an Examinations Centre. The first public examination will take place on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> May this year when our year 9 Business Studies students will be taking an award called "Preparation for Working Life". This is a qualification awarded by AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance).

Mrs Judith Quick has been appointed as the school's Examinations Officer and she is responsible for the administration of the examinations. You will notice that a new area has appeared on our website with information about examinations. You can find it by looking in the students' area of the website.

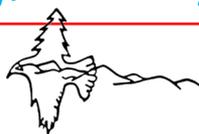


Judith Quick  
Examinations Officer

<http://www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk/page/?title=Examinations&pid=88>

Please take a look and familiarise yourselves with what is there.

## Just a little bit of snow...



Mr Baylis and Miss Davies took a group of 34 students to Tirabad in early December. We arrived to a little bit of snow, which caused a lot of excitement during the forest adventure walk...and a few cold fingers! However little did the teachers or students, know that we were about to be hit with "snowmageddon" having the most snow of anywhere in the country. Below gives you some idea!

This meant that the students had to have a slight change in their activities in order to suit the weather. They spent the days sledging in the snow, doing problem solving

and orienteering...where they often had to dig their markers out of the snow! By Thursday the snow had cleared enough for the students to get out of the site and do gully scrambling before returning to take part in archery. Friday started bright and early at 6am with final duties and breakfast before heading back to school.

I think given the snow it is safe to say, that the students definitely ended up receiving a unique Tirabad experience!

*Miss Davies*



## As Year 8 enter the KS4 Options process, there are some key dates to be aware of:

<b>Tuesday 6th February 7 - 9pm</b>	<b>Careers Fair at Maiden Erlegh School in Earley</b> The largest school-based fair in the region with over 90 different employment stalls to investigate
<b>Wednesday 21st February</b>	<b>Year 8 Options Taster Day and Options Assembly</b> Students to experience a GCSE lesson in some of the option subjects
<b>Tuesday 6th &amp; Thursday 8th March</b>	<b>Year 8 Progress Meetings</b> Parents can discuss current progress
<b>Monday 12th - Thursday 15th March</b>	<b>KS4 Options Surgery</b> Support for parents
<b>Friday 16th March</b>	<b>OPTION FORM DEADLINE</b>
<b>Monday 5th - Thursday 15th March</b>	<b>Advice and Guidance</b> Support students in their choices

## Food Preparation and nutrition



Year 9 have been busy learning new practical skills that included making homemade pasta, a dish that uses a white sauce and Risotto.

**Champion Chefs this term have included:**



Salma Rasul for her independent work making homemade pasta and pesto.



Aiden Cameron for his presentation work while making a risotto.



Amna Osman for making a lovely gelatinised white sauce for her macaroni and cheese practical.

## ASDAN students go to Alfred Sutton School to read their children's stories



The children loved the stories

MESIR Yr 9 ASDAN students' task was to write and then make a child's storybook.



The storybooks included pop up aeroplanes and flaps with lions hiding behind them.



The ASDAN students have a great time.

## Treasure Island



On the 14<sup>th</sup> December, the Drama team led a very exciting performance of Treasure Island. With a wide cast, music and singing as well as art work provided by the Art department, the production was a huge success and was completely sold out. Mrs Tolman and Miss O'Sullivan produced the play and spent many hours with the cast rehearsing, working on the set and preparing everything for the production. We would like to thank the cast, crew and staff who worked on this exciting production, and who are already thinking about what to do next year!

## The Reading Hive

Our year 9 students have been as busy as bees listening to their younger classmates read. Each Thursday morning students pair up so that the

older, more experienced readers can work with younger students to help them practise their reading comprehension skills. They keep a record of helpful comments and suggestions for improvement. It has been particularly impressive to see year

9 being so encouraging and supportive towards the younger ones and they should be congratulated for their perseverance and dedication. After half term, we will offer this intervention to a new group of students.

Mrs Escott-New



Yr 9s act as reading tutors for yr 7

## Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

This is the term when we host our annual Careers Fair at Maiden Erlegh School in Earley. This important event will take place on Tuesday 6 February from 7-9pm and is one of the biggest school-based fairs in the region. We invite students in Year 8 and 9 and their parents.

[Click here for Careers Fair Letter.](#)

We have also been running our Careers Seminars between Monday 22nd January and Monday 5 February, which are open to students in Year 9. We are so grateful to the 17+ local professionals and members of the business community who have given up their time to lead these sessions.



## Macbeth Books – year 9

Most year 9 students have now received their copies of Macbeth, their 1<sup>st</sup> set GCSE text, and the study guide which accompanies it. We still have copies available for those students who have not yet purchased a book but who would like one. We are studying the play now in English classes and students will annotate the texts with notes as we read the play. If you are unsure how to get a book for your child, please contact the school so we can help you.

Mrs Escott-New  
English Department

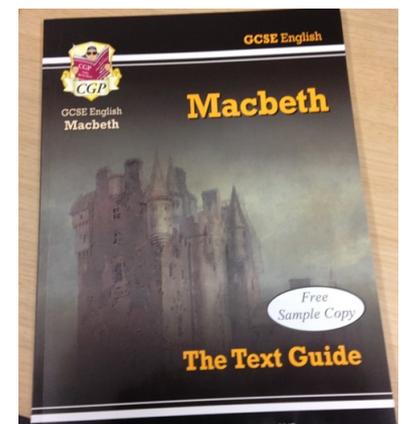
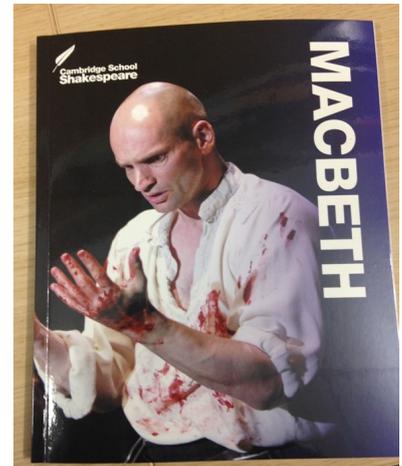
MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL IN READING

CHOOSE A CAREER THAT SUITS YOU...

# MAIDEN ERLEGH CAREERS FAIR 2018

Tuesday 6 February  
Years 8 & 9 7-9pm

To be held at Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road



Support through beneficial editions of set texts (& study guides)

## Sport

### All years Netball Club

The time has finally come for the girls to hang up their football boots and take to the court for Netball with Year 7 and 8 training on Wednesdays and Year 9 on Thursdays. The girls are trying out new skills and tactics to be used against opposing teams. All year groups are entered into the Reading Schools League which starts after half term, where they will be putting their training to the test. Let's go!!

Mrs Roberts

### Year 9 Curriculum

This year the year 9s are trying out new sports within lesson time. The girls are coming face to face with the grass in Rugby and the boys facing very difficult discipline rules in Netball. Both are enjoying these lessons and are learning new skills that they did not know they had.

### Football Training

Year 7 and 8s football training has started this term with lots of boys coming out to show off their skills in the muddy conditions. We have had fantastic numbers turning up each week with both sessions getting at least 35 boys. Fixtures for all three years start at the end of February, with hopefully some silverware being won!



On the 21st February we are organising a special day where the normal timetable will be suspended in order to help students focus on their learning skills and their future.

- Year 7 will have a series of sessions to help them understand how they can develop as better learners and to grow their learning skills.
- Year 8 will have special options taster sessions – an opportunity to experience some of the subjects they may wish to consider in the options process that they haven't studied before.
- Year 9 will have a series of sessions focussed on students developing the skills, attitudes and approaches they will need to be successful in their GCSEs

This is going to be a very interesting day and staff are already in midst of preparing resources and learning experiences for the students.

## 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

## Staff training days

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January the school was closed to students for staff training. A number of parents and students have asked what we actually do during these days. CPD days give vital time to the school to develop and further enhance aspects of the work of the school. For example, the most recent CPD day included sessions on:

- Our school development priorities
- Leadership team meetings
- The introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulations and its impact on school
- First-aid training for PE staff and others

- Practice development sessions on: supporting literacy and numeracy, collaborative learning, de-escalating conflict, use of data to support teaching, supporting students with dyslexia, teaching assistant deployment and co-working, Restorative Justice
- Middle leadership training
- Bespoke training for the admin team and other support staff
- Collaborative lesson planning and standardisation of assessments

Across Maiden Erlegh Trust we are committed to the support and development of our staff for the benefit of students and our CPD days allow valuable time for this.

## 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@maidenersleghschool.co.uk](mailto:parentpay@maidenersleghschool.co.uk)



Click on the logo to log on to the Learning Gateway

