



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

Maiden Erleigh School in Reading has been a very focussed place over the last half term. Year 9 and then Year 7 have had their assessment weeks and most of Year 10 have been focussed on their first GCSE examination in Religious Studies. Around the examinations and assessments there have been plenty of preparation and revision opportunities. I have been very impressed with the attitude that our students have shown and the serious approach they have taken. But these things don't just happen – I would like to thank the hardworking staff team who tirelessly support our students.

It has been a very theatrical half term with our drama students out on a trip to watch "Noughts and Crosses" and we welcomed the young Shakespeare company into school to perform "The Scottish play" to year 9. Nothing beats live theatrical performance for bringing texts and stories to life and we have been delighted to offer these opportunities to our students.

Over the last two weeks we have been recruiting our new senior student ambassador team. These are year 10 (soon to be year 11) students who will take a lead in representing the student body in decision making supporting the school's routines and representing the school to others. We have had a huge number of applications from confident, conscientious and committed students who want to make a greater contribution to the life of the school and I am sure that this team will do a fine job. What has struck me in this process is the immense pride that our students have for their school. They want to be the best they can be so that the school is the best it can be.

Additionally, I had the privilege of reading through the applications from students putting themselves forward to fill the posts of Head Boy and Head Girl. These will be

the most senior student leadership posts and those appointed will represent the school to others and will lead our wider senior student leadership team. I would like to thank all students who applied, for taking the time to write such thoughtful and interesting letters and writing with such passion and eloquence. Mrs Escott-New, Mr Bandy and I had the unenviable task of choosing between fantastic applicants.

As you are all aware, we continue to grow and as we move in to the final half term of the school year, our planning and preparation for next year moves up a gear. I am pleased to be able to let you know that Year 7 will be full next year (our final year of growth) and we have a significant waiting list of parents keen to send their child to our school. We are looking forward to meeting many of these students through our transition programme which kicks off in earnest after the half term break. Members of staff will be visiting local primary schools to let students know a little more about what it is like to be a part of the Maiden Erleigh School in Reading community. We are also looking forward to our Transition Day when the new intake will be invited into school for a taster day. We will then meet later with their parents to share more information about the move from primary to secondary.

Finally, I am delighted to let you know that we have appointed a number of excellent new staff across our curriculum and supports teams who will only add to the strength and dynamism of our school. We look forward to welcoming some of them next half term and then in September.

I hope you have a restful break during the half term holiday.



CALENDAR

6 June	Year 9 Progress Meeting
7 June	Year 9 HPV Vaccinations (female)
27 June	Year 10 Future Pathways
27 June	Year 6 Induction Day & New Parents' Evening
28 June	Reading Town Athletics Championships
4 July	Staff Professional Development Day (school closed for students)
9 July	Culture Day
10 July	Music Concert
15 July	Year 7 STEAM Day
22 July	Sports Day

HOUSE POINT TOTALS

Griffin	Triton	Phoenix
38,465	39,840	37,832

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>



BULLYING

From time to time all schools have issues with bullying. At Maiden Erlegh Reading we work with our children to educate them about bullying and how and where to get help. We take all reports of bullying seriously but we can only intervene when we know about it so it is important that concerns are raised with us as and when they arise.

The NSPCC definition of bullying is *behaviour that is repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.*

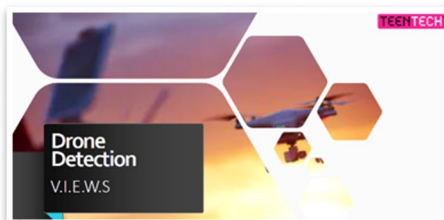


We work with all of our children so that they understand:

- When someone does or says something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's **RUDE**.
- When someone does or says something intentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's **MEAN**.
- When someone does or says something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it even when you tell them to stop or show them you're upset, that's **BULLYING**.

For information on how we tackle bullying at Maiden Erlegh Reading please see our [Anti-Bullying Policy](#). For support and advice: [National Bullying Helpline](#) or [NSPCC](#).

Teentech Awards 2019



Congratulations to three Year 9 students, Samuel, Jasmina, and Jubair for reaching finals of the Teentech Awards 2019 to be held on the 24th of June at the IET, Savoy Place in Central London.

This is a national STEM competition with entries from schools all over the UK and further afield. The team have been working on their project after school since September and it is a fantastic achievement to be selected.

The V.I.E.W.S. team, led by Samuel have designed and developed a product which is intended to detect drone movements around airports. Their entry has been submitted to the Data Science category.

The awards ceremony will be held in June, where a panel of highly respected judges and specialists will view the presentations and the VIEWS team will have an opportunity to present their project. Last year, Jasmina reached the finals.

Other students involved in the Teentech project were Jan, Helene (both Year 9) and William (Year 7) for their Bioplastic project. Phoebe, Yaqeen and Pallavi (all Year 9) for

TEENTECH®

their 'Green Roof' concept. All the entries were of a very high standard and the students showed great determination and focus after school to complete their projects.

Congratulations to the finalists and to all the other students who entered projects and worked so hard over the year.

Mr Tsoumparis and Mr Bradley

New Bike Shelter Fence

We want to encourage as many students as possible to ride their bike to school. Understandably, some students and families have been nervous about using the front bike shelter as it was so open to Crescent Road and Bulmershe Road. The school took the decision to invest in new fencing which now makes the shelter much more secure. This has now been installed and is a great improvement!



Careers, Work Experience and Work Related Learning:

Year 10 Work Experience – Monday 24 – Friday 28 June

Following on from the very successful Think Ahead Day in January, students in Year 10 have now received their work experience launch assembly and representatives from Learning to Work are busy placing each student based on the information they provided on their application forms and during their student interviews. Students are very excited to be going out on placement and will receive placement details in due course.

Forthcoming Events:

Year 7 STEAM Day

Friday 12 July 2019



Lexia Success!

We are delighted that Musa 7P1 has completed all five levels of Lexia. This is impressive progress, and shows his dedication both at home and in lessons. He is the first year 7 to complete Lexia and we are very proud of his efforts.



What is this
IMAGE?



Doused in petrol.

What could these men in Liverpool be dipping in the buckets?

Any ideas?

All will be revealed in our next issue of the Pulse.

EXAM TIPS for parents!!

THE FACTS

- teenage brain is poor at planning
- poor at decision making
- good at risk taking
- severe mood swings
- misunderstanding others – mainly you!

THE REWARD CENTRE IN TEENAGE BRAIN IS HYPER ACTIVE:

- easily demotivated
- seek reward in other words needs

PRAISE!!

WHAT CAN YOU DO:

- acknowledge her/his stress
- listen at least 80%
- praise
- be interested
- discuss family plans - no surprises

STUDY HABITS:

- help him/her plan
- weekly work schedule
- down time treats
- negotiate
- establish a pattern but be flexible
- finish by 9.30p.m.
- use some relaxation (headspace, calm app)
- dedicated work area free of distractions (phones, snapchat...)
- use music but no lyrics (YouTube music for concentration)



PRAISE EFFORT NOT ABILITY – if we focus on effort, ability increases.

Praising ability

~~You are so clever~~
~~You are natural at maths/science~~
~~You will get that A*~~
~~This is easy for you~~
~~You are better than your brother/me...~~

Praising effort

You have worked so hard
Tell me how you did that
All that hard work is paying off
You are so focused
You have done well to stick to your schedule this week, I am proud of you

GOOD LUCK! From your trust school counsellor T.B.Leadbitter

Knife Arch on Site

The school was fortunate enough to have been offered the opportunity to have knife arches on site on Thursday 16 May. This was offered as part of a new push by Thames Valley Police on preventative work, as opposed to reactive work. You may well remember, we also had the opportunity of having Speedy, the drug detention dog on site a while ago. Thames Valley Police made a huge push on knife crime recently with Operation Spectre being introduced. This was a knife amnesty, and a drive to reduce knife crime. You will have all seen on the news the devastating results of the now horrifyingly frequent knife crime in our communities.

You will be pleased to know that nothing was detected, but is another play in



ensuring our students are safe, but also educated on the criminal repercussions, and damaging consequences knife crime can have.

This is an incredibly proactive approach, and is excellent in building positive relationship with the police in our school, as well as our community.

Year 9 Assessment week

In the build up to the assessment week, the Year 9 tutor team utilised Friday morning PSMSC and tutor time sessions to help students learn how to revise, as well as giving them time to practise these new skills. It was lovely walking into tutor times with the majority of students revising with all sorts of revision materials.

Assessment week for Year 9 is completed for this academic year! A lot of hard work went into the build-up and duration of the week. During the week the year 9s have behaved admirably. They have taken this very stressful week in their stride and made their teachers very proud. Well done, year 9s, on a very successful week!

Looking to the future, as always, there is room for improvement. We know we are aiming to be the very best we can be. A few things to remember before sitting an examination: pockets must be empty, watches are not allowed and of course, no

mobile phones! It is so important that these items are left in lockers or at home. A few of us need to learn how to control our talking and communications, but that is something we can work on together!

Overall, we are incredibly proud of the mature and sensible approach the majority of the year group has shown. Now we are planning for the big results reveal which will be in an assembly on Tuesday 4th June. This will be an exciting time where students will see the potential paths they can take with the mock results they have achieved. Hopefully, this will help inform the students of the importance of the GCSE we are studying towards.

Good luck to all year 9s for the results assembly!

Miss Hancock & Mr Baylis



QCA assessor visit



As a new school, our processes and policies are, quite rightly, regularly reviewed and scrutinised. We are now a registered examination centre and during the recent Religious Studies GCSE examination we received an inspection visit from an assessor from the QCA (qualifications and curriculum authority). She was pleased with what she saw and expressed great confidence in what we have put in place, giving us a perfect report. Congratulations to Mrs Quick and her examinations team for their work and focus in developing this aspect of the school ready for next year which sees our first full year 11 examinations programme.

Year 9 and the Scottish Play



Year 9 were entranced by a dynamic performance of the key scenes from Macbeth on Wednesday 14th May. The Young Shakespeare Company came into school to do a workshop on the play, the protagonists – Macbeth and Lady Macbeth – and their motivations for their evil deeds. A demonstration of how stage fighting is done was particularly well received. The actors involved the students in making decisions about how

the scenes should be staged, linking the play to modern culture and demonstrating an impressive range of acting styles and accents. Year 9 responded really well and commented that they had found the workshop stimulating and enjoyable. We know this will help with their understanding of the play and how it works on stage.

*Mrs Escott-New
English Department*



Student and Parent Survey

Every year we ask parents and students to complete an online survey to help us to evaluate different aspects of the life of the school. It enables us to understand where we are getting things right but also identifies areas that we need to look at improving in the future. The feedback from the surveys is hugely important and has a real bearing on our planning for the future as we continuously look to improve the school. A huge thankyou to all those of you who took the time to complete the survey. This year, we were delighted to receive some very positive feedback on areas of school life which we have consciously looked to strengthen.

A summary of the outcomes of both the Parent and student survey can be found here: [Surveys](#)



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

Ski Trip – Sestriere, Italy!

The first school ski trip took place during the Easter break, and was a great success. We travelled by coach with 29 pupils to Sestriere; an Olympic Ski resort in the Milky Way, with 933km of skiing! The weather conditions were perfect, and even has snow on cue when we arrived. The weather was hot, meaning some interested goggle tans! Out of the 29 skiers, 27 of them were first time skiers. Almost all the students managed a black run by the end of the week! The students also skied in France one day, in the ski resort of Montgenevre, where they also had a traditional pizza lunch in a restaurant, followed by some screaming fun on The Luge Monty Express. This is 1400m of trails down a mountain side, in a sledge on a monorail, with over 300m of downhill rails... a white knuckle ride! The students would be lying if they said they didn't scream! The students also

took part in a variety of other après ski activities including swimming, bowling, quiz night and a rep night full of fun activities.

All in all a fantastic trip. The next ski trip has been planned and the letter is due out any minute! I hope to see more students taking up this fantastic opportunity!

Miss Burns



NOUGHTS & CROSSES

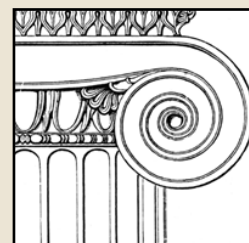


Our Year 9 and 10 students travelled to Stratford East Theatre on 2 May 2019 to watch Noughts & Crosses, a gripping Romeo and Juliet story by acclaimed writer, Malorie Blackman and adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz. This is a captivating drama of love, revolution and what it means to grow up in a divided world. This was enjoyed by all the students who were a credit to the school's reputation.



What is the image?

This is a detail of an ionic column capital that forms part of the façade of Royal Berkshire Hospital. The opening of the Royal Berkshire Hospital in 1839 was part of a growing trend in the early nineteenth century of wealthy patrons building hospitals for the good of the local population. In this case the land the Royal Berks was built on was donated by former Prime Minister and local resident, Henry Addington. The Royal Berks also received Royal patronage, first under William IV who took an interest in the hospital prior to its construction, hence why the royal arms appear on the façade. The royal links, however, don't end there: his niece and successor, Queen Victoria, was the hospital's first patron. This period in medical history marked a shift in attitudes to health of the poor and the causes of poverty and bad health.



SIMS Parent App

Easy access to important school information



SIMS Parent app replaces Learning Gateway as the means by which we deliver key information to you.

Access via
SMARTPHONE,
TABLET
or PC

What you will find in the SIMS Parent app:

- Important information such as attendance, behaviour and achievements
- School term, inset dates and contact details available at the click of a button
- Access your child's school report
- Receive notifications to remind you about important information such as key dates for your diary
- Access to update your contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of emergency
- If you have more than one child at school, you'll have access to information for all your children, from the same app.



The information that you receive through the app will help you to stay up-to-date with your child's school life as well as support your child's development and progress.

To access the SIMS Parent App please [click here](#) to view the information letter on our website.



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

Extra-curricular Activities

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



TERM DATES	
Summer	23 April - 24 May 2019 (Bank Holiday 6 May)
	3 June - 24 July 2019
CPD Days	4 July 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 envelope to view recent communications



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

Email queries to: parentpay@maidenerleghschool.co.uk



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