ThePulse

The state of the s

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

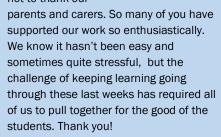
Welcome to the latest edition of The Pulse – our special "Lockdown edition"!

While the school has been physically closed to most of our students, we have been very much "open for business" as the articles and picture prove. It is very reassuring to know that the "school" isn't a building – it is our community and, when adversity strikes, a true community rises together to meet the challenges head on. I want to pay huge tribute to our staff, students, parents and governors alike for embracing the challenge of the emergency lockdown and ensuring that we have not let our students down.

Despite negative and ill-informed headlines in certain quarters of the media, our staff have shown utter professionalism and have gone way beyond what could reasonably be expected in order to keep our education provision going. Many staff have had to become experts in on-line learning and have gradually refined their practice over the weeks of provision. This hasn't been easy: many staff are also looking after their own children at the same time as setting work, marking and providing feedback. I am profoundly grateful to them for supporting our school in the way that they have

At the centre of our thoughts, as ever, are our wonderful students. So many have responded with maturity and optimism to the difficulties we currently face. Staff have regularly sent me examples of wonderful work that has been produced. We have some truly exceptional young people who exemplify tremendous character and attitudes to their work.

Finally, It would be remiss of me not to thank our



Nobody really knows when we will be back to normal. But one day we will and until then we will keep going and doing our very best.

Do enjoy the articles and I encourage you all to take a break over the half term holiday



Mr Johnson, Miss Hancock and Mrs Pepper held an afternoon of interviews to select our new body of students to represent and lead the school. There were some excellent and well composed presentations that made it very difficult to choose. However, with the help and insight from our current Senior Student leadership team, we were able to confidently select an excellent group of Year 10 students.

Head Students: Ayusha and Wasim
Charity committee coordinators: Laiba
and Fila

School Council coordinator: Jasmina

Sports coordinator: Mikhile

Eco committee coordinator: Helene

Mentoring coordinator: Holly



Finally finished putting,
@MEChilternEdge
@MESReading &
@MaidenErleghSch art
together from the students currently
attending MER! #thankyouNHS
#thankyoukeyworkers







A small group of Year 7 & 8 students hit the M4 and headed west before the lockdown at the beginning of March. A week in the Welsh valleys and hills was waiting for them and the Tirabad experience did not disappoint!

As soon as they arrived, our students were marched up the lanes near the outdoor education centre to a very special spot visited by countless Maiden Erlegh students of years gone by... the activity was 'Mud Factor 5!' Students were told that dozens of items of footwear and clothing have been lost in the waist-high mud-slick, and Chelsea added to the history by leaving her right welly-boot in the mud-pool!

Hot showers were a very welcome way to warm up from the hike and prepare for dinner!

The food was great - a particular hit with Gabriel who usually enjoyed seconds and sometimes thirds! The puddings were very popular and Mr Murphy struggled to hide his admiration for them! Washing-up and 'setting-up-forbreakfast' duties followed. All the students played their part, though Amy deserves a special mention as her proactive attitude rubbed off on those around her. Tilly was so inspired that she ended up sending a huge box of coco pops crashing all over the dining-room floor! Fortunately plenty of help was at hand to clear up! Miss Wildman's Disney Playlists helped with the team effort!

Mornings were a bit of a drag for the girls! Their rooms were always the slowest getting ready for activities! Esha led the way for the boys – always on time, ready and waiting to get going!

Each day the group had a go at plenty of different activities. Saba and Ghazaal couldn't get enough of the water during the canoeing trip – so much so that

(accidentally) went for an icy swim!

Andreea's shouts and warnings led the group through a pitch-black disused rail-tunnel. Takira, Sonia and

they both

Mariah faced their fears and completed caving and gorge scrambling challenges they didn't think possible. As the days progressed we realised we didn't need a watch or clock. We could not time of day it was based on

tell what time of day it was based on Nicole's demeanour: Very quiet? Must be early morning! Very bubbly? Must be time for food soon! Eyes half closed? Must be bedtime!

The group were brilliant. They were an absolute credit to MESiR, drawing praise from the Tirabad staff for their positivity (if not their timekeeping!). As the coach swerved its way through the narrow, bumpy, winding roads back to the motorway, some of the group were clearly so upset to be leaving Tirabad they were quite literally sick!

School Council



We welcomed Mr Johnson to this months' meeting. He brought with him some great news that the school council have been lobbying for on behalf of their tutor groups. The 'hair being tied back' rule has now been relaxed after great demand. We also discussed how our school can make students feel safe and included in all aspects of their school life.

Lexia Success

Well done to those year 7 and 8 students who have been accessing Lexia Power-Up at home and are making excellent progress. This shows great dedication and we are grateful to the families who are supporting our students in benefitting from this invaluable online intervention.

Congratulations to Piotr and Oscar in year 8 for completing the highest number of units.

Mrs Hameed, Senior TA

School council

The School Council held their first lockdown virtual meeting. They discussed and contributed to the idea of a new timetable during lockdown and the way negatives and positives are motivating them or demotivating them during this new way of teaching and learning. As well as that, Amy from Year 7 lead her fellow Year 7 school council representatives in presenting a wonderful eco idea that we hope to implement from September.

Year 10 Spanish Speaking Examinations!

Before Easter, Year 10 Spanish students did a full mock speaking examination. I didn't get the chance to say well done to everybody who did the exam and, on the whole, the results were very encouraging! Keep up the good work at home by speaking Spanish whenever you get the chance!

Mr Winstanley



GO WILD in JUNE for your health, wellbeing and for the planet!



SIGN UP for 30 DAYS WILD!



Join thousands of people who are taking part in The Wildlife Trusts' annual nature challenge and do one simple naturebased activity every day in June!



All you have to do is sign up and you will get a free downloadable pack of goodies. There is one wild thing to do every day throughout the whole month.

https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/57739/petition/1



From the Science Department

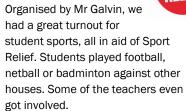
Eco committee

In March, the Eco Committee worked alongside RISC Reading to secure the chance of having a garden in our school. This will not only improve the biodiversity here, it will also be an opportunity for

students and staff to enjoy the holistic nature of gardening. As well as this, they have been working hard to complete an Eco review to ensure MER is as ecofriendly as possible.



Sport Relief







Business Studies

Learning in Lockdown: Enthusiastic Entrepreneurs!



Year 9 & 10 Business Studies students have been combining their learning of marketing skills with developing products suitable for lockdown. They have come up with some great ideas and have designed their presentations including logos and pricing strategies ready for 'potential' investors to view – great work. Some excerpts of work are shown below from Joshua and Phoebe Year 10 and Zain Year 9. Well done!

What the product is

My product is essentially a bedroom waste bin but a lot high tech. It will have an alert to tell you when the bin its full and need to be emptied, It will also have its own unique special feature in order to help with lock down, Inside the flame retardant bin there is a flame which burns anything you put in the bin that may carry disease, e.g. tissues. It's safe around children as the flame only work when the bin is closed, also it has it's built in AI system like Alexa or Siri and a Bluetooth to emptied and dirty. And all bins will be colour customisable.

The name of the product is call C.B.K which stands for Catch it. Bin it. Kill it.



This is the logo for my product. This reason I have designed my logo to look like this is because, It is showing a man informing you to C.B.K above fire which a symbol for the bin its self and the circle around the man represents the catching of the disease. The Red is meant to symbolise the killing part and remind you the colour and of the fire and blood.



Business Studies

<u>VIRTWRLD</u>

My product is called VIRTWRLD which is a Virtual reality headset allowing you to see and travel around the whole world. In the time of quarantine it seems impossible to travel to destinations around the earth . This product allows you to seemingly teleport to nearly any destination. Have you ever dreamed of travelling to the sites of tokyo or dubai , these amazing products make it easier then ever app allows you to explore different destination and see various landmarks



Features

Allows up to 4 people to travel to same destination at same time Events on certain days made E.G concerts In real life sounds and realistic climate

Logo

Logo primarily dark and light blue giving virtual and electrical vibe Globe representing possibility of visiting every destination

Business Studies

The Routine Watch

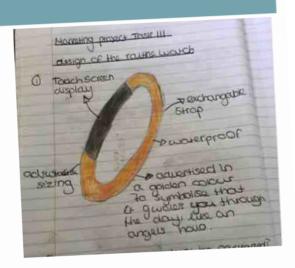
Plan your day

What is the routine watch?

The routine watch is a watch designed to help your mental health especially during lockdown, by aiding you to maintain a healthy routine and mindset

It allows you to log and track your mood, and suggests indoor activities to help you remain positive. As well as allowing you to plan a routine. And of course it tells you the time and date.

To the right you can see an annotated design of the watch, things such as making it water proof, with a touch screen and adjustable sizing, help it to reach gaps in the current watch market.



Pricing strategy

As my product is new to the market the most suitable pricing would be penetaration pricing. Potential customers would not likely be interested in buying it at a high price, so gaining interest by releasing and marketing it at a lower price would be helpful to gain customers. Competition pricing would also be used to determine a good starting price, making the watch slightly cheaper than some of its biggest competitors eg Fitbit or Apple Watch would help increase sales and overall profit.

YEAR 10 - WE MISS YOU!





Miss Hancock

Can you believe what is happening in the world at the moment?!

We started Year 10 with a very clear message and that was that GCSEs start now!



This year we thought we were starting the year with challenges such as the RE exam, iMedia exam and coursework, work experience, CV writing, decisions!

Now we face the challenge of learning at home, singing 'Happy Birthday' while washing our hands, staying indoors, not seeing our families/friends and staying 2m away.

I know we can face these challenges head on, <u>together</u> and with a smile on our faces!

Even though we are at home, the hard work continues so please ensure you are completing all work set, looking at your GCSE specifications, planning your GCSEs for next year and starting to revise.

Even though times have changed - the most important thing is for you to believe in yourself. You CAN succeed and you CAN do well.

I miss you all! I miss the smiles in the corridors, the conversations, the knocks on my office door, the laughs and the banter! Remember that even though we are not in school, I am at the end of an email to support you. Please keep working hard and stay safe!

I continue to be the proudest Head of Year and feel so lucky to work with you all!

Keep Smiling and Keep Safe!



I just wanted to say that I am missing all of you. My mornings are much quieter, but less fun. I hope that you, and all of your family, are keeping well and that we will all be back when it is safe to do so.

Do your best to keep learning and in the immortal words of Brian O'Driscoll - 'Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad'.

Please look after yourselves, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all again.



Miss all your smiling faces, bad moods, righteous indignation and teenage troubles! Hope you are all working hard so I don't have to be too hard on you when we get back to school...whenever that is!

Keep smiling and be good.

YEAR 10 - WE MISS YOU!



Mr Winstanley

Hello everyone!

I hope you are all staying well and safe! I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Just to let you know that I am missing you all so much, and

Miss Chilton-Murphy

I am so sad not to be your tutor next year. You have been a great tutor group this year (despite being noisy!) and I am proud of you all. I hope you are staying safe and busy, and are working hard during this strange time.

Hopefully see you soon!



I can honestly say that I have never missed a tutor group as much as you lot! You make me smile everyday from silly questions to 'laughing' at my jokes. The time will come soon when we are back to routine and believe me when I say, I will have the biggest SMILE for each and everyone of you. Take care!

Why did Cinderella get kicked off the football team?

French and Spanish - The Greatest Language Challenge

Year 7 MFL students took part in a language challenge, allowing them to win house points for their respective houses. The challenges also enabled them to

learn more about the culture of the language they are studying. A big 'shout out' to Alicja who produced some tasty looking churros from scratch.



Reading festival - Spanish lockdown edition

Students completed a lockdown bucket list to keep them entertained. Many chose to do this as extra work over Easter. Lots of lovely results were uploaded from students learning yoga in Spanish to learning Spanish lyrics off by heart.





Spanish cook-along

KS4 students joined Mrs Pepper with a tortilla cook-along on Zoom. They followed the Spanish instructions and were all able to produce something enjoyable and edible.

French - 'a letter a smile'

During the lock down in France,
Belgium, Switzerland and Canada, all
contact with older people living in care
homes has been completely restricted
to carers only. Some young people have
created this association called "1lettre
1sourire" "a letter a smile" to help lift
the spirit of these vulnerable people.
Yasameen, Holly, Malachi, Neri,
Maheen, Awa, Priyal, Finley, Farida and
Anaz (from Year 9) wrote a letter in
French. It was automatically sent to an
EHPAD (care home for the elderly) in the

aforementioned French speaking countries. It was a lovely idea and we would very much



like to say thank you to our French students who took part in this initiative for their contribution "to write for a purpose". https://lettre1sourire.org/ecrire-une-lettre/

How seeds disperse

Year 7 Sc8 students took up the challenge to teach their classmates "How seeds disperse".

Here are screenshots of the fantastic videos they created.

Please click on the links attached to appreciate the work they have created.



Shivam https://classroom.google.com/u/1/g/tg/NjEy0Tg0NDkzNjJa/0DAyMzk5NDkyMzRa#u=Mzgy0TczNjg3MjVa&t=f



Mrs R Saxena **Project - Science is fun**



Someone roleplaying a dandelion...



...a fully mature



...blown by the wind



...still flying



...and landed





https://www.instagram.com/maidenerleghartstars/

Arts Competition

During Lockdown, the Art, Drama and Music departments have been running an Arts competition: themes so far (at time of writing) have been "Community", "Over the Rainbow" and "Friends and/or Family". It has been amazing to see so many entries

to this friendly competition and to see students' creativity! Well done to all of the winners so far. Students who wish to join this competition can join the Google Classroom using the code vywqf2p









Museum of English Rural Life Arts Collaboration

As an additional extra curricular activity, the Arts Faculty (Music, Drama and Art) have launched a collaboration with the Museum of English Rural Life. This project is just starting, but students will have the opportunity to collaborate to create content for a 3D tour of the museum. The content could be any form of art, drama or music that students can create at home and students will be working collaboratively in teams, supervised by members of the faculty remotely. Students who wish to join this exciting project can join the Google Classroom using the code gevpkcy







Mindfulness in times of need

I am no expert by any means, I can truly feel the positive effect Mindfulness has had on me over the years and especially during lockdown.

Life can be like a pressure cooker at the moment..., kids, news, X box, cleaning, shouting, worry, uncertainty. And, its different for each and every one of us.

So, may I ask you to stop just for 3 minutes...

Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we're doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what's going on around us.



3 Minute Breathing Space

Step 1 Becoming aware

Deliberately adopt an erect and dignified posture, whether sitting or standing. If possible, close your eyes. Then, bring your awareness to your inner experience and acknowledge it, asking: what is my experience right now?

What thoughts are going through the mind? As best you can, acknowledge thoughts as mental events.

What feelings are here? Turn towards any sense of discomfort or unpleasant feelings, acknowledging them without trying to make them different from how you find them.

What body sensations are here right now? Perhaps quickly scan the body to pick up any sensations of tightness or bracing, acknowledging the sensations, but, once again, not trying to change them in any way.

Step 2 Gathering and focusing attention

Now, redirecting the attention to a narrow 'spotlight' on the physical sensations of the breath, move in close to the physical sensations of the breath in the abdomen . . . expanding as the breath comes in . . . and falling back as the breath goes out. Follow the breath all the way in and all the way out. Use each breath as an opportunity to anchor yourself into the present. And if the mind wanders, gently escort the attention back to the breath.



Step 3 Expanding attention

Now, expand the field of awareness around the breathing so that it includes a sense of the body as a whole, your posture and facial expression, as if the whole body was breathing. If you become aware of any sensations of discomfort, tension, feel free to bring your focus of attention right in to the intensity by imagining that the breath could move into and around the sensations. In this, you are helping to explore the sensations, befriending them, rather than trying to change them in any way. If they stop pulling for your attention, return to sitting, aware of the whole body, moment by moment.

I hope you enjoyed it... Stay Clam, Stay Mindful, Stay Safe

Mrs Quail

English Department Update

STARS OF THE MONTH - APRIL

This award recognises that these students have put in a huge amount of effort and perseverance in English lessons during the first month of the school closure. Their teachers have nominated them to receive this award in recognition of this.

YEAR 7 Anabel Aparajita Aryan Gofran Mazia Noah Sonia

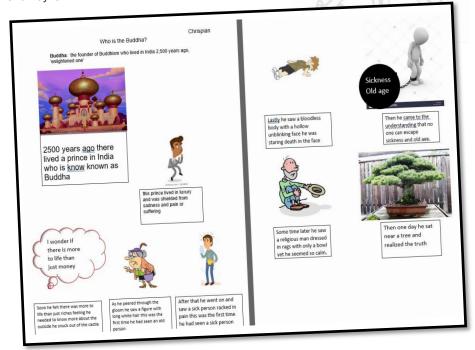
YEAR 8
Anastasiya
Friya
Hassan
Malik
Musa
Obhil

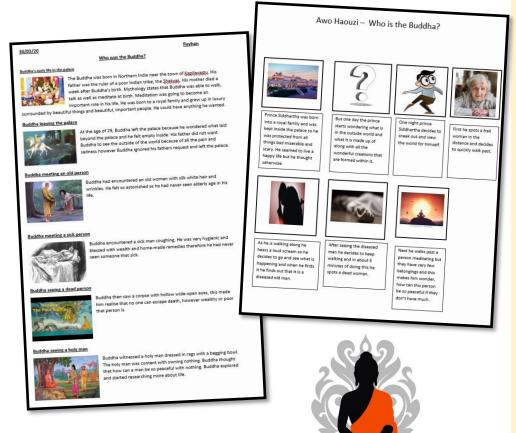
YEAR 9
Conal
Daniel
Fatima
Finley
Keeley
Max
Shivashish

YEAR 10 Alona Alysha Bea Deeraj Helene Maya

Religious Studies

In Religious Studies, Year 8 students have produced some fantastic work summarising the life of the Buddha. They have shown imagination and technical flair through their work, preparing them for their online assessments for the Buddhism unit. Some examples are shown below from Awo, Chrispian and Rayhan:







MER Science Club

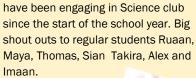
KS3 students at MER have been attending weekly Science club making things fizz, pop and zoom! Students also took part in specially selected STEM experiments to celebrate



British Science

Week, including making their own bath bombs, slime, flying teabags, balloon rockets and more!

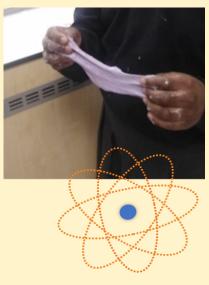
A massive well done to all the students who

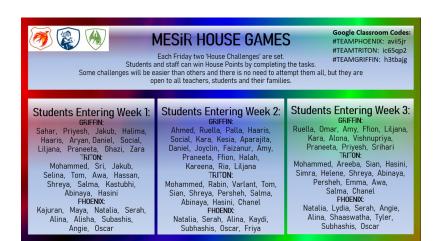


Ms Hogarth and Miss Hussain Science Department



00





Subhashis, Oscar, Friya

Angie, Oscar







MET Special secondary provision aka "Pop-up School"



We have been pleased to host the Maiden Erlegh Trust special secondary provision for students with parents and carers who are key workers, and other students particularly identified as needing extra support. We joined the three trust secondary schools together for this and have welcomed 25-35 students every day. The school quickly took on its popular name - "pop-up school". Most of the time students have been working on their remote learning task, but we have also organised additional activities including PE, music, technology, cooking, science and art. The students have got to know one another and all have shown great maturity in their attitudes to work. After the half term, the Pop up school will be closing and we will introduce our own school provision from 9 - 3.00. Just a reminder that students will be expected to attend in summer school uniform (no blazers required).



Yr. 11 Leavers Assembly

On Friday 20 March we were able to put together a special farewell event for our year 11. Mr Bandy, Head of Year, led an excellent assembly full of pictures, memories and reflections and we also made time for the obligatory shirt signing. Every member of staff in school on that day also supported the farewell, and some who weren't able to be in (due to self-isolation) even delivered a video message! We wish our year 11 all the best for the future.





Supporting the NHS

During the Easter break we were delighted to work with other schools in the Trust and other neighbouring schools to distribute

Science
goggles and
other PPE
equipment to
carers and key
workers in our
community.
Alongside
other schools,
we have also
helped to
produce face
visors which



were distributed to those on the frontline in the fight against Covid-19 at the peak of the crisis.

National Competition Winner!



Congratulations to Shaawaatha in year 9 who has won the national "Make a mug- make a difference" competition to raise funds for @NHS. Organised by @RoyalCrownDerby . The design will now go into production. More info and to order your mug: http://www.royalcrownderby.co.uk/makeadifference





Gold Award Success! -Starpack Schools Awards 2020

The Starpack Schools Awards are organised annually by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining. This is a national competition for schools and colleges from all over the country to work to a design brief set by industry professionals. The awards are designed to encourage students to take up a career in the exciting world of consumer packaging design. The competition fits well into our KS4 curriculum and gives students a chance to use the iterative design process and work to real deadlines.

All of the Year 9 Technology students took part in the competition and had to research, design, develop and make a product from a set brief set by industry. The project was run as a mini GCSE project and the best submissions were entered for the competition. The project was also offered to Year 10 Design & Technology students to do in their own time.

Due to the current global health situation, the organisers of the competition appreciated the difficulty of meeting deadlines and in sending finished practical work in the post. As a result, all of the entries had to be submitted electronically and 5 projects were entered to be judged. It was a real rush to get projects finished and because of the school closure we had to work quickly to complete both folder and practical work to a competition standard.

The themes we chose were 'Seasonal confectionery' and 'Food to go - Promoting healthy eating for children'.

I am delighted to say that Finley (Year 9) won a Gold Award for his healthy 'Food to go' package. The judges' comments were very complimentary stating the project had 'In-depth research of existing packaging and strong design of the development boards'.

Josette (Year 9) won a Silver Award for her seasonal 'Halloween' confectionery and Eliza (Year 10) was Highly Commended by the judges for her 'Mother's Day' confectionery packaging. Haaris and Jasmina were also entered and received very positive feedback for their work.

I have run this competition in schools in which I have taught for the last 9 years and this is the first time we have won a Gold Award. Our students were up against GCSE and A Level students from all over the country, so this is a great achievement.

The Starpack awards ceremony will be an online event towards the end of June to celebrate the work of all the entrants by judges and sponsors and we look forward to that.

Well done to all of the students this year. Last year I set a target to win a Gold and we managed it in very difficult circumstances. Hopefully we can build on our success this year and keep up the good work.

Mr C Bradley Curriculum Leader - Design & Technology









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



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