



# ThePulse

*Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All*

Maiden Erlegh School | 81 Crescent Road | Reading RG31 5SL | T. 0118 966 8065 | [www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk](http://www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk) | @MESReading

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

### Welcome to the final edition of the Pulse for this Academic year

This has been a school year like no other and we have all had to endure disruption and, for some, great hardship. Yet despite the challenges of lockdown, our school community continues to thrive and as the weeks of the summer term have progressed, it has been a huge relief to be able to welcome more and more staff and students into school. Since the half term break, Year 10 students have had up to four visits to school for some teaching in Maths, English and Science and to receive support for their online learning. Students in years 7-9 have also been invited into school for face to face sessions with teaching staff to discuss their experience of lockdown and review their learning during this period. Meanwhile, we continue to welcome our regular "special provision" students (the children of key workers and other invited students), many of whom have been attending school, day in, day out, since we went into lockdown in March.

Supporting these welcome opportunities to see our students has been our online learning programme and the remote one to one support offered by our pastoral and inclusion teams

I want to pay tribute to our amazing staff team who have shown such commitment, agility and creativity in providing high quality education and care for our students in these different ways. Many have, themselves, been juggling the challenges of home schooling their own children or caring for vulnerable members of their family, yet they have been so determined to support our students and their families.

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, we are looking forward to welcoming back our Year 11 students to collect and celebrate their results for which they have worked so hard since they started with us in 2015. We will also be eager to hear about their plans for September and, where necessary, to offer advice help and support.

Following the summer break, we are looking forward to our big "Restart" as the whole school returns in September. Whilst there will be some differences in the way that the school operates, we are determined to get back to "normal" as much as possible, recognising that routines and consistency provides safety and security for the students in our care. Our teachers and other staff have been making adjustments to our study programmes to ensure that we are able to help students fill any gaps and make robust progress across their subjects. We know that the best way to support students to achieve is great teaching and a great learning environment – and that is what we are determined to deliver.

Whatever your plans over the summer holidays, I wish you good health and happiness.



## Maiden Erlegh in Reading School Garden

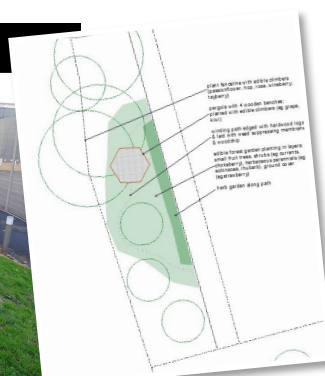
Before lockdown, the student Eco Committee had been working hard with Mr Tomsett and the RISC centre to develop a plan for a school garden. The idea was to use our green space in a more creative way to provide an edible forest garden for learning and relaxing in.

Unfortunately RISC has had to close for now due to the current disruption, so progress has stalled. However the hard work the Eco Committee had put in, had led to the drawing up of



plans for a garden, which we would like to share with you now. We hope to be able to secure funding to begin this project as soon as we are safely able to do so.

Maiden Erlegh forest garden



## Igniting Writing



We're holding the online Igniting Writing sessions monthly, with the **next one scheduled for Saturday 11th July at 10:30am**. If any pupils want to join in, all you need to do is have a parent or guardian email Elizabeth McDonald, the Wokingham Library Young People and Families Outreach Manager, with their name, age and school, requesting to be part of the session. Elizabeth can be contacted on [elizabeth.mcdonald@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.mcdonald@wokingham.gov.uk) and she can then send you the link to dial in.

## HOUSE POINT TOTALS

Griffin	Phoenix	Triton
48,609	48,897	49,307

## Weather Game

Open for Players now

Sign up and submit weather predictions weekly.

**First deadline**  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 7pm**

I'm delighted to share with you the exciting news that the University of Reading's Meteorology Department has launched its Weather Game for public play on 29 June 2020 for the very first time. This will give amateur weather forecasters, school pupils and professional weather forecasters a chance to fight to the top of a weekly leader board, based upon the accuracy of their forecasts.



The game will give you an invaluable opportunity to predict global weather patterns and engage with a newsworthy department which is at the forefront of the battle against climate change. This will provide excellent grounding to any students interested in studying Maths and Physics at University level.

The game will run for 6 weeks with a deadline for predictions on each Friday. Players will receive guidance in terms of how to set up their account, input their predictions and support should they require it. This is an excellent activity to complete before encountering the UCAS cycle, will look impressive in a personal statement and will hopefully provide a nice introduction to the University of Reading itself.



<https://weathergame.reading.ac.uk/>

## Year 9 French students

To celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French Resistance, our Year 9 French students had to listen to Prince Charles and Emmanuel Macron inspiring speeches in French, trying pick up sentences they could understand.

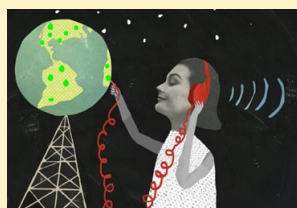
What an inspiration it is, to hear the British Royals speaking foreign languages.



## Language Immersion Challenge



Good luck to all students entering the Language Immersion Challenge over the summer. This is a national competition for all year groups and more details can be found in your Google Classroom for either French or Spanish.



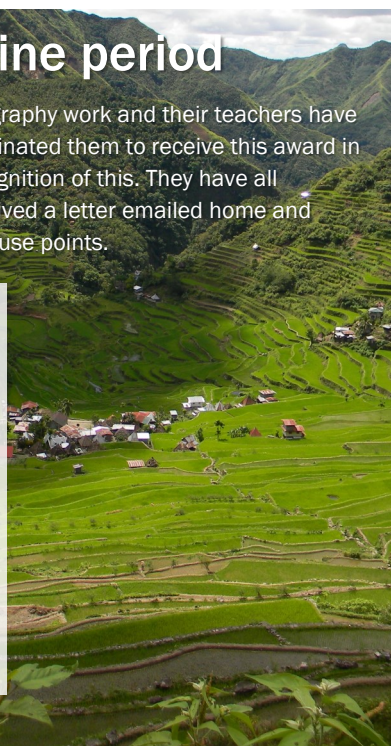
Entries should be submitted on your return to school in September.

## Geographer of the online period

Well done to the following students for winning geographer of the online period. This award recognises that these students have put in a huge amount of effort and perseverance in their

geography work and their teachers have nominated them to receive this award in recognition of this. They have all received a letter emailed home and 5 house points.

YEAR 7		
Manfred	Shannon	Gayathri
YEAR 8		
Akos	Malik	Roza
YEAR 9		
Sakar	Max	Deepisa
YEAR 10		
Deeraj	Heather	Christina



## MESiR House Games Week 4 Highlights



## MESiR House Games Week 5 Highlights



## MESiR House Games Week 6 Highlights



## MESiR House Games Week 7 Highlights



## MESiR House Games Week 8 Highlights



## Year 10

**It has been so lovely over the last few weeks, seeing so many of you back in school - LEARNING!**

Those of you who attended have been brilliant, following the systems and procedures we have put in place to keep you safe. I am so glad I got to see so many of you before the summer holidays.

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

In May I said: *"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".*

In July I am saying: *"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 what September may look like, staying socialising distance of 1 metre PLUS, and the over-use of the word "BUBBLE".*

As always I know we can face these challenges head on, **together** and with a smile on our faces!



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. If you have fallen behind on your online learning **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** spend the holidays catching up!

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

This is our Year 10 goodbye and next year we start the exiting last step of our academic journey together. 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 am looking forward to seeing you in September.**

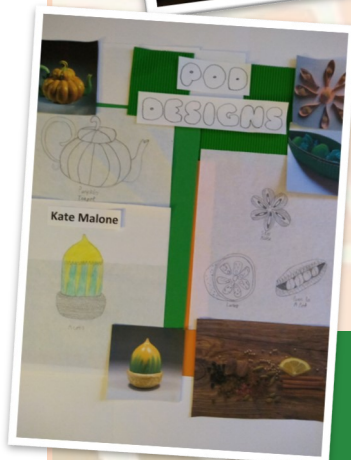
**I continue to be the proudest Head of Year and feel so lucky to work with you all!**



*Keep Smiling and Keep Safe!*

Miss Hancock

# Arts



Foundation artists have been busy studying natural forms



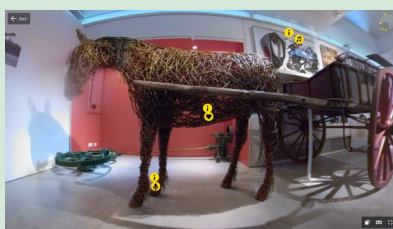


We're working towards Artsmark Awarded by Arts Council England

## Museum of English Rural Life Project

This term, the Arts faculty has been working hard with students on a number of projects, both in online lessons and outside of these.

One of the most significant projects that we have been working on has been our virtual tour of the Museum of English Rural Life, which can be found here <https://readingartlab.com/lockdown-lab/artsmark-360-merl-challenge/> and it is well worth looking around to see



examples of music, computer media, drama, art, soundscapes that our students have created this year in response to exhibits and the garden and building of the museum.

This project was a result of our strengthening links with the Art department at the University of Reading as part of our "Working Towards Artsmark" status.

## Arts Competition

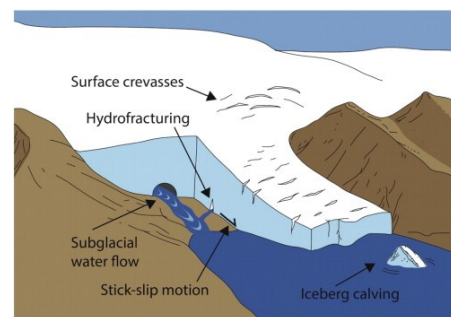
Our regular arts competition has continued, with recent topics including "Nature", "Where I'm from" and "My ideal summer". As well as the visual entries that you can see here, there have been a significant number of entries of both videos and recorded music as well. It has been impressive to see the creativity and resourcefulness of our students.



## University of Hertfordshire Geography opportunity

Dr Phil Porter, a glacier scientist and one of the University of Hertfordshire's Geography lecturers, has put together an exciting taster lecture exploring glacier hydrology. The lecture gives students the opportunity to experience what a university lecture is like, as well as expand their subject knowledge, and possibly provide inspiration. This would be perfect for any aspiring geographers, particularly those at GCSE who think they may want to continue studying geography at A Level and beyond.

Other taster lectures on Human Geography and Environmental Management will also be available shortly.



Here is a link to access the lecture:

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/study/schools-of-study/life-and-medical-sciences/departments/biological-and-environmental-sciences/geography-environment-and-agriculture/geography-and-environment-taster-lecture>

### Year 11

Mr Bandy

Year 11 students officially finished their time at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading this month. The plans for results day are in full swing and hopefully will be a great opportunity to celebrate the successes of our students. The yearbook has been sent to print and the order is on its way, which is fantastic news as this is a wonderful way to celebrate Year 11s' schooling journey at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. With exciting times ahead, with new education opportunities in September, we wish Year 11 all the success in the world and look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things they have been up to in the future. *Good luck Year 11 with your results!*

## 6 weeks of Summer Science

**Get your weekly fix with our science six**

- Week 1** Take a trip to the Zoo <https://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/virtual-london-zoo>
- Week 2** My not visit the science museum <https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/virtual-tour-science-museum>
- Week 3** Become an inventor take the Tyson challenge <https://www.jamesdysonfoundation.co.uk/resources/challenge-cards.html>
- Week 4** Watch some science TED talks <https://ed.ted.com/lessons?category=science-technology&direction=desc&sort=featured-position>
- Week 5** Reach for the Moon <https://beta.iop.org/moon?ga=2.10362485.1926302531.1594071685-507043688.1594071685>
- Week 6** Get experimental (try colour changing cabbage juice) <https://www.rigb.org/families/experimental>



## Year 9

This year has been a tough year, the start of GCSEs is hard enough but to have COVID-19 lock-down thrown into the mix has made the year vastly more challenging. Year 9 this year have done an amazing job dealing with the current new way of learning.

Let's look to September and continue this excellent attitude. *Mr Baylis*

## Year 9 Virtual Careers inspiration day

On Wednesday the 8th of July, Year 9 took part in a virtual careers inspiration day, they researched different career possibilities to give them more of an understanding of what it means to work in their preferred field of work. This will help the students with their work experience in year 10.

The students' work has been excellent and a lot of strong research has been conducted.

## Year 6 Transition Process



This year has presented us with some challenge regarding the transition of students from Year 6 into our Year 7 at Maiden Erlegh in Reading. But with new challenges comes new solutions and exciting opportunities. Staff have met (virtually) with all of our feeder schools around the Reading area to find out all the important information about our students coming to us in September. This has been a valuable process to allow us to prepare for our incoming Year 7s.

We unfortunately were unable to deliver our usual transition day where the Year 6 students visit in the summer term. This has allowed us to become creative in delivery of transition virtually. This has been an exciting process culminating in a weekly bulletin with important information, fun and informative videos, preparation work set by some departments and challenges to engage students with their transition. It has been great to see Year 6 students completing their weekly challenges and sending them into the school to showcase what they have been up to in this lockdown period.

We are very much looking forward to finally meeting our new Year 7s on our new transition day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September!

### TIPS FROM THE SENIOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP



## Use your extra time wisely.

- DO YOUR SCHOOL WORK FIRST AND THEN YOUR HOBBIES WILL FEEL MORE REWARDING. DON'T FORGET TO TAKE A BREAK AFTER EACH PIECE OF WORK.
- PICK UP A NEW HOBBY AND MAKE A PLAN FOR EACH DAY OR WEEK TO IMPROVE OR CONTINUE IT.
- TRY SETTING YOURSELF SMALL OR BIG GOALS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE THIS MONTH AND TICK THEM OFF.
- MAKE A HABIT OUT OF GOING OUTSIDE EVERY DAY.
- CREATE THEMED EVENINGS WITH YOUR FAMILY. E.G COME DINE WITH ME.
- MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL AT HOME AND HELP AROUND THE HOUSE. YOU'LL FEEL MORE APPRECIATED.
- READ THE SAME BOOK OR FILM AS FRIENDS AND THEN HOST A VIRTUAL BOOK/FILM CLUB.
- TRY MEDITATION - DON'T KNOCK IT UNTIL YOU'VE TRIED IT.
- LISTEN TO MUSIC YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE.
- LOOK INTO HOW YOU CAN HELP THE ENVIRONMENT OR LOCAL CHARITIES FROM HOME.
- AS LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS ARE EASING, MAKE SURE TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE.

WE'D LOVE TO SEE PICTURES OF YOU TRYING OUT ANY NEW HOBBIES!

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STARS OF THE MONTH - JULY

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

YEAR 7		YEAR 8		YEAR 9		YEAR 10	
Kareena	Oskar	Daniella	Hassan	Keeley	Zain	Holly	
Aparajita	Simra	Roza	Sian	Rufus	Fahad	Prajwal	
Zainab	Thomas	Caua	Laiba	Laura	Maryam	Christina	
Abner	Anja	Emily	Malik	James	Daniel	Ben	
Amy	Tom	Shamina	Barona	Max	Alexis	Ryan	
Ian	Serah	Musa	Akos	Martim	Finley	Alona	
Sadia	Varlant	Oscar	Saurya	Lauren	Sakar	Mikhile	
Aoife	Hamish	Andrei		Floris	Victor	Jasmina	
Natalia				Rahaf	Oliver	Mahmoud	
				Ben	Soumyavardhan	Abdur	
				Priyesh	Pratiksha	Daniella	
				Pedro			
				Shaaswatha			

## 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>



# Subject Awards



## YEAR 7

SUBJECT	EFFORT AWARD	ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
English	Thomas	Aparajita
French	Gayathri	Natalia
Spanish	Rabin	Anja
Geography	Aparajita	Natalia
History	Manfred	Dara
Music	Natalia	Thomas
PE	Natalia	Akwasi
Art	Thomas	Amy
Maths	Alicja	Mazia
Drama	Natalia	Mazia

## YEAR 8

SUBJECT	EFFORT AWARD	ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
English	Musa	Liam
French	Maxina	Eva
Spanish	Saba	Emek
Geography	Danielle	Emily
History	Isaac	Zara
Music	Danielle	Akos
PE	Awo	Oscar
Art	Daniella	Chrispian
Maths	Amy-Lea	Vishnupriya
Drama	Eva	Malik

## YEAR 9

SUBJECT	EFFORT AWARD	ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Food	Imaan	Farida
HSC	Aaron	Alisha
D&T	Finley	Shaaswatha
English	Rahaf	Edward
French	Woody	Finley
Spanish	Yasameen	Oliver
Geography	Daniel	Jesica
History	Khaled	Joshua
Music	Humzah	Sam
PE	Kathryn	Finley
Art	Lauren	Holly
Maths	Julia	Rahaf
Business Studies	Samatha	Tanya
Economics	Rufus	Priyal

## YEAR 10

SUBJECT	EFFORT AWARD	ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Food	Shreya	Rojina
HSC	Maariya	Alona
D&T	Alyisha	Eliza
English	Ziyad	Alyisha
Spanish	Juna	Maariya
Geography	Kelvin	Jasmina
RE	Ghulum	Edara
History	Maariya	Rachel
PE	Ella	
Art & Photography	Shreya	Ella
Maths	Ritika	Ben
Business Studies	Meoldy	Phoebe
Economics	Edara	Laiba
Drama	Eliza	Ayusha



Year 7 took part in a virtual **STEAM Day**, where each student had the opportunity to explore at least one area of either Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths. The students listened to 5 professionals discuss their respective fields and then attempted a challenge in the area that they felt most inspired by. The challenges are, as of this moment in time, still ongoing and Mr Bradley and myself look forward to seeing what the students have come up with.

## People Like Me



30 boys and 30 girls from Year 9 had the opportunity to take part in a People Like Me session. This was run by Thales and offered students an opportunity to do some team building tasks whilst also understanding some of the different engineering careers available to them. The students also completed different personality tasks to see what possible careers their personalities may be suited for. Students were really engaged, asking lots of questions and they found this an interesting session! Maybe we have some future engineers in Year 9!

Miss B Davies

## Year 7 Summary

### What a roller coaster start to Maiden Erlegh School in Reading for Year 7 this year!

A great start to secondary school life saw some of the year group visit Tirabad for a week of adventure, go on a trip to the Harry Potter studios and more. They have faced their challenges though, with a change of Head of Year just after Christmas and of course, getting to grips with life in lockdown. However, as I said to them in January, we are a strong team, and with everyone working hard together we become a strong, impenetrable force. They have lived up to that challenge and it has been a delight being their Head of

Year so far. I'm incredibly proud with how they've risen to the challenge that lockdown has imposed on them, especially considering it's their first year of secondary school.

Consequently, I am very much looking forward to welcoming them back in September and seeing what great achievements and successes they can bring! Well done Year 7 - have a great Summer and we'll see you soon.

Mr Rabin

## Year 11 Mock Interview Day

All Year 11 students experienced a one-to-one interview with a business volunteer to help prepare for work or college interviews. They were given individual feedback on how they could improve. This was to aid them in preparing for their upcoming sixth form, college and apprenticeship interviews. The skills learnt and feedback from

these interviews will also help the students in preparing for job interviews. The day was a fantastic experience for the students who rose to the new challenge and interviewed very well. The feedback from the interviewers was very positive, conveying the students had prepared well and showcased what they had to offer.



## Staffing changes

At the end of the school year we say farewell to a number of staff colleagues who are leaving us for new posts and roles and some moving to different parts of the country. Ms Barton, Mr Jackson, Mrs Asghar, Mr Rayner, Mr Tapp, Mr Andghuladze, Miss Hussain, Miss Qaisar, Mr Hampson, Mr Malakar, Mrs Barnikel and Miss Chilton-Murphy are all moving on to pastures new. We also say au revoir to Mrs Elliss, Deputy Head, who is moving to a new role in Maiden Erlegh Trust working across our growing family of schools and to Mr Baylis who will temporarily leaving us but has promised to return

We offer huge thanks to these members of the team for their contribution and hope they will come back to visit us soon!

We are delighted to announce that in September we will be fully staffed with specialist teachers and professionals in every team. In the next edition of the Pulse we hope to introduce readers to these new staff members.

## Year 8

What a difference a year makes! Year 8 have been tasked with choosing their GCSEs this year - arguably one of the biggest decisions to make at Secondary School. Their engagement in the Think Ahead Day back in November was an encouraging start to the GCSE Options Process and they continued to impress the Senior Leadership Team with their maturity and diligence in their options interviews in February.

Having been faced with the recent challenge of Virtual Schooling, I was keen to keep our momentum going. So last week Years 8 took part in a Virtual Careers Inspiration Day, where they considered their vision and aspirations for their future career pathways. This was a fantastic opportunity to see the vast range of passions and interests this cohort have and the students continued to show their enthusiasm in the research they carried out.

As we come to a somewhat unexpected end to Key Stage 3, I would like to congratulate Year 8 on their hard work and the progress they have made, and we look forward to seeing them excel in their chosen subjects when we return in September.

Miss Wildman



## TECHNOLOGY 2020 - Round up

As we reach the end of the academic year, it is really pleasing to reflect on the success of the Technology students at Maiden Erlegh in Reading. This has come in the form of three national competitions where our students have made significant contributions and been successful in the endeavour. These students have put in extra effort and it is great to see their work being recognised by industry, and nationally, especially in these difficult times.

### Royal Crown Derby

**Make a mug – Make a difference – National competition win!**

In the last edition of The Pulse I mentioned that Shaaswatha Ramachandran from 9P1 won this national design competition for her amazing design which won the Royal Crown Derby – Make a mug, make a difference competition. The competition celebrates the NHS and its aim is to raise funds to support NHS Charities Together Covid-19 Urgent appeal. The competition also gave young people an

engaging challenge, showcased creativity and encouraged education about the NHS.

Shaaswatha's winning design has gone into production with Royal Crown Derby and is available to buy from their website. 100% of profits go to the NHS. Her design captured the judge's eye and she received great feedback. Shaaswatha had to submit a series of designs and then a final design to the competition.

Eliza Rozek in Year 10 was also given a Highly Commended Award receiving

great feedback from the judges. This work was completed as an additional Technology project extension during lockdown.



The Starpack Awards ceremony took place online this year at the end of June. We were delighted to have three students in the final. Finley won a Gold Award and Josette won a silver. Both students are in Year 9.

We also had Eliza in Year 10 who had won a Highly commended Award again for her confectionery packaging. Eliza was also given an additional award on the day of 'Best Portfolio'. This was great and unexpected news and was a tribute to the hard work and quality project that she put together.

### TEENTECH 2020

Most recently Priyal and Tanishka in Year 9 became finalists in the 2020 TeenTech Awards. This is a national STEAM competition with over 250 schools and 1,500 student entries so to reach the finals is fantastic. They have been working on their project since September and have been creative and independent in their research and development of their 'Transparent plastic wood' project.

They were entered into the Design and Construction category and had to present their project to a panel of industry experts. They represented the school exceptionally well and delivered a clear and interesting presentation. Whilst not winning the overall category, they were awarded with a 'Teamwork in a crisis' certificate. As well as this, they earned a Gold Centre of Innovation and Creativity Award.



**I am very proud of all of our Technology students and would like to congratulate all of the students above, who went the extra mile to complete work in difficult circumstances as well as represent the school and our values. In a time when all practical and creative subjects are being squeezed, this shows that we have a vibrant subject and, with hard work and determination, we can gain success and add value to our world.**

**I would like to wish the outgoing Year 11 students all the very best for the future. I hope everyone enjoys a safe and happy summer.**

*Mr C Bradley - Curriculum Lead – Design and Technology*

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#### Parent App -

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