



The Pulse

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

Welcome to the first edition of The Pulse for this academic year.

As we head towards half term, we do so with an overwhelming sense of relief; finally we have our school back together and students in classrooms able to hear and see members of teaching staff face to face!

We have been able to achieve this with a number of safety measures in place and I want to thank parents, students and staff alike for supporting these vital measures. As a result, our provision has not, at this stage, been too disrupted by COVID related absence. We will continue to be diligent in these matters and after half term we will be taking some time to "reset" and remind everyone of the things we need to do (and not do) and the reasons why. We have also been working very hard to put in place detailed contingency plans so that we are able to continue delivering high quality teaching and learning in the case of any future lockdown or restrictions. We hope that doesn't happen, but we must be prepared.

Meanwhile, students and staff have been working together to understand where learning gaps have opened up during the lockdown period and to consider how we can move forward to help students to catch up. On the whole, our students are very resilient and the majority of them worked hard during lockdown to ensure that they weren't too far behind when they restarted in September. Unlike some schools, we decided not to subject students to a barrage of tests and assessments upon their return; instead our expert staff have been making their own professional judgements, subject by subject to identify what steps we need to

take. As a result, curriculum plans have been adjusted and specific helpful interventions have been identified and will be put in place. After half-term, we will be writing to you to outline, more fully, our plans and how students will benefit.



I have been very impressed with the serious approach that so many of our students have taken to their learning. I have had the privilege of showing around a number of visitors to the school, and consistently they see a school fully into its stride – fantastic teaching leading to robust and successful learning. Classrooms are calm and purposeful as staff and students work together to discover and develop knowledge and skills. We were particularly pleased to welcome in our new year 7 students and to help them settle into our school community. We look forward to getting to know each individual and look forward to the contribution they will make to our school life.

The first half term of the year is always busy as we restart the year, welcome new staff and students and get down to the business of great learning. This one has been particularly busy with all of the additional challenges already mentioned. I therefore wish all of our stakeholders a good half term break - we are all certainly ready for one!

In the meantime, please enjoy reading this edition of The Pulse – full of exciting news and highlights from the last few weeks which tells the good news story of a school that is very much open for business.

LEARN EQUALITY

LIVE EQUAL

I would like to say big congratulations to all those who were involved last year with working towards the "learn equality, live equal" award! We are now able to use the logo in our school and this accolade is something that can really reflect the inclusive nature we hope to continue fostering within our school community. The next award we will be aiming for is the stonewall bronze award, which again will reflect positively on our staff and students.

We have also now been recognised as a "stonewall schools champion" centre whilst we work towards the bronze award.



Once again, a huge thank you to all

involved in the "2BME" group last year - a safe space for all students to discuss LGBT issues, meet with allies and get involved in school life.

Mr Cameron

**Shoe box –
make someone's
Christmas that
bit warmer**



As tutor groups we will be collecting items to go in shoeboxes to give to local homeless people over Christmas. Please can students and staff bring in one or more of the following:

Deodorant, wet wipes, hand sanitiser, scarf, gloves, hat, socks, sweets, chocolate, a shoe box, wrapping paper, Christmas card, sanitary items.

The deadline is **November 6th**.
This will be done via CIRDIC.
Thank you

House Logo Competition

This year's House Competitions got off to an artistic start with a challenge for students to design a new logo for Griffin, Triton and Phoenix. There were some very imaginative designs submitted! Some of the best ones are going to be taken forward into the next stage of competition, offering students the chance to turn the hand-drawn badges into computer-generated logos. More news on that to follow!

GRIFFIN



Harvey
7G1



Khadeeja
8G1



Vishnupriya
8G1

TRITON



Jasmin
7T2



Julia
7T1

Rehan
7T2



PHOENIX



Hanifa
7P1



Kaytlin
7P2



Marta
7P2

HOUSE POINT TOTALS

YEAR 7:

1st: Phoenix..... 4213
2nd: Triton 4016
3rd: Griffin 3840

YEAR 8:

1st: Phoenix..... 3412
2nd: Griffin 3147
3rd: Triton 2885

YEAR 9:

1st: Triton..... 3715
2nd: Phoenix 3480
3rd: Griffin 3038

YEAR 10:

1st: Griffin 3061
2nd: Phoenix 2916
3rd: Triton 2236

YEAR 11:

1st: Griffin 3490
2nd: Phoenix 2932
3rd: Triton 2865

WHOLE SCHOOL:

1st: Phoenix 16953
2nd: Griffin 16576
3rd: Triton 15717

*Correct as of 8th October

From your Senior Student Leadership Group

It's been an unusual, but good start to the year. It's great to see people wearing masks and staying safe; we hope it continues.

We've been pretty busy so far this term. We held our first school council meeting and it was great for Y7s to join in and give some ideas for how we can continue to improve our school.

We have a few charity events coming up already. We're organising a fundraiser for Launchpad in October; students are able to wear their own non-school shoes and donate £1. We're also doing 'The Big sleep out at home' where students will be sleeping on their floor without the luxuries of a duvet and pillow and be eating cold food that evening. We look forward to seeing the result of this fundraiser.



Ayusha
Head Girl



Wasim
Head Boy

In November, we will be putting together some shoe boxes filled with hygiene products, scarves, gloves and a Christmas greeting card for local homeless people to brighten their Christmas.

We've been working with Mrs Headley to create some posters and information for Black History Month and we've already received some great input from students all around the school.

Have a safe half term.



Ella
Charity coordinator



Mikhile
Sports coordinator



Laiba
Charity coordinator



Samuel
School council
coordinator



Helene
Eco committee
coordinator



Holly
Mentoring
coordinator

Parenting Special Children are running the following events online via Zoom. They are free for Berkshire families (£5 refundable booking deposit) or at a nominal cost. Some events have a small number of tickets available for non-Berkshire families. Please click on the highlighted event title for further information and to book.



www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Sleep Tips for Teens

A 40 minute presentation for teenagers who struggle with their sleep.

Available to view on demand until 31st October 2020.

Cost: Free for the first 25 downloads then £2 per download.

Time Out for ADHD: West Berkshire

A five week course for parent/carers with a child who lives, or attends a school, in West Berkshire.

Tues 3, 10, 17 and 24 November and
1 December: 12 – 1.30pm

Dads and Male Carers Support Group

Tues 3 November: 7.30 - 9.30pm

Sleep Course for Professionals

Open to both Berkshire and non-Berkshire professionals working with children and adults with neuro-developmental conditions (e.g. Autism, ADHD).

Fri 6 November: 10.30am – 1pm

Adoptive Mums Workshop and Support Group: Topic TBC

Wed 11 November: 7.30 - 9pm

The A Team: Awesome Autism

A group for school aged autistic girls (up to/including age 18) who live, or attend a school, in Berkshire

Sat 14 November

Primary Age: 9.30 - 10.30am

Secondary Age: 10.45 - 11.45am

PSC SEND and Mental Health Conference

Keynote Speaker: Dr Pooky Knightsmith

Wed 18 November: 9.30am – 6pm

Kinship Carers Support Group

Wed 18 November: 11am - 12pm

Autistic Girls Monthly Workshop and Support Group

Thurs 26 November: 7 - 8.30pm

PSC CONFERENCE 2020

Ticket sales end at midnight on 11th November

SEND and Mental Health

Wednesday 18 November: 9.30am - 6pm

Keynote Speaker: Dr Pooky Knightsmith

After much thought we have taken the decision to move our Conference online. We feel that the subjects covered by the Conference are needed more than ever, and many events are now being successfully held online.

Presentations at the Conference include:

- Self-care isn't selfish - You matter too
- What is 'well-being' for children and young people with SEND? Child and young person's perspective
- Looking beyond behaviour - exploring a wide range of challenging behaviours and how to understand and respond to them
- Supporting the mental health of children and young people with early life trauma
- Working with families - working in partnership to ensure the best outcome for children and young people
- Anxiety and Sleep

We have an additional after school session on 'Supporting COVID kids to become strong adults'. This is included in the day ticket and can be booked as a stand-alone event for those not able to attend during the day.

There will be plenty of break time between sessions, and all sessions will be recorded with access provided after the event.

Ticket Prices:

Practitioner - Statutory Sector: £50

Practitioner - Voluntary Sector: £40

Parent/Carer: £40

Full Time Student: £20.

Eventbrite booking fees apply.

For all of our online events going forward, please click [here](#).

Trust School Counsellor

Helpline and Diagnosis Support Service

(Mon – Thur, 10am – 2.30pm)

Tel: 0118 9863532 Email: dss@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Trauma and Attachment Service

Tel: 07557 102623 Email: tas@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Sleep Service

Email: sleep@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Community Support Groups

Tel: 07810 689679 Email: supportgroups@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

For any other enquiries please email admin@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk



Welcome to Year 11!

In Year 9 we spoke about the start of our journey together; I spoke about the challenges and how we were going to work together for the next 3 years for our GCSEs.

#YouThemUs2021

In Year 9 We Spoke About

Welcome to GCSE's

New Subjects, New Challenges, New Start

"Be excited about the prospect of moving on. This is your new beginning. The start of anything you want."

"And suddenly you know... It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings."

A fresh start is a journey - a journey that requires a plan.

In Year 10 I spoke about the climb that we had and we were one step closer to our GCSEs. I spoke about the challenges ahead and that together we can accomplish lots.

#YouThemUs2021

In Year 10 We Spoke About

The Climb!

1 Year Completed - 2 Years to go

That dream I'm dreaming but
There's a voice inside my head says,
You'll never reach it.

I can't

I give up!

I will never be able to do that

YOU CAN!

DON'T KEEP COMING!

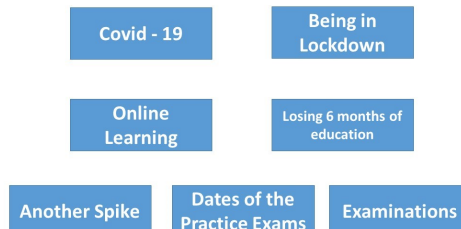
YOU WILL WORK HARD!

Half way through Year 10, I wrote to you and said how proud I was of Year 10 and how they conducted themselves in lockdown, how they had been working hard to complete the online learning and the new "normal". I then welcomed them back into school for the "year 10 provision" I was the proudest head of year as they embraced the opportunity and lead the way for students coming back to school.

Now we start Year 11, and I am shocked at how quickly the last two years have gone. I can't believe we are on our last year of the journey together. And like every other year we have challenges ahead - I know we can face these together!

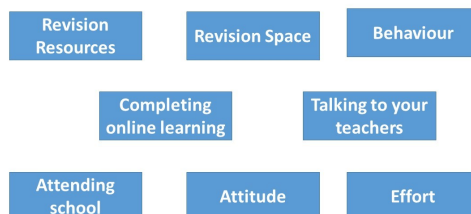
We have situations and things we can't control - so together we are NOT going to worry about them.

What can't we control?



But we have things we can control - and this is what we are going to focus on.

What can we control?



Every year you moan about my quotes and songs BUT I am not going to stop for your last year. This year's theme is "Panic at the Disco - High Hopes". **We have a vision, we have high hopes, we are shooting to the stars, we are going to be greater, we are going to leave a legacy and we are not going to give up!**

#YouThemUs2021

This Year!

Had to have high hopes for a living
Shooting for the stars when I couldn't make a killing
Didn't have a dime but I always had a vision
Always had high, high hopes
Had to have high, high hopes for a living
Didn't know how but I always had a feeling
I was gonna be that one in a million
Always had high, high hopes

Mama said
Put the prophecy
So something greater
So make a legacy
Worked every day
Back in the days
We wanted everything, wanted everything
Mama said
Run your aspirations
Give up your dreams
Museum victories, everyday
We wanted everything, wanted everything

Mama said don't give up, it's a little complicated
All tied up, no more love and I'd hate to see you waiting
They say it's all been done but they haven't seen the best of me
So I got one more run and it's gonna be a sight to see

As always, for students, the hard work continues so please ensure you are talking to your teachers, finding out about your subjects and asking for help when you need it. REVISE, REVISE, REVISE! The most important thing is for you to believe in yourself. You CAN succeed and you CAN do well.

Parents, please support your son/daughter by providing them with revision materials, ordering them the revision books or simply asking them how their day has been. It is important you believe in them and give them the boost they need.

As a school we are here to teach, help and guide you through these three years and help you to achieve the best results you can get. We believe in you!

YOU, THEM, US- this has been my key message for the last 2 years and this year, it is more important than ever. I look forward to the year ahead and know that working together will mean that we will progress and succeed.

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF A BRAND-NEW JOURNEY

We're all working together; that's the secret.

Coming together is a BEGINNING
Keeping together is PROGRESS
Working together is SUCCESS

IT'S AMAZING WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH WHEN WE'RE IN IT TOGETHER.

YOU

THEM

US

English Stars of the Half Term



This award recognises that these students have started the new school year impressively, demonstrating high levels of effort and determination. Their teachers have nominated them to receive this award.

YEAR 7:

Deo
Mobeen
Lena
Annali
Jamie
Xavier

YEAR 8:

Aparajita
Rebecca
Amy
Scarlett
Nicole
Akwasi
Takira
Abdulazeez
Simra

YEAR 9:

Myriam
Byron
Nadia
T'Shya
Neekunj
Mohammed

YEAR 10:

Millicent
Neesham
Shaaswatha
Nicole
Megan
Umar
Ythamar
Tegan

YEAR 11:

Luka
Srihari
Shoyuj
Kelvin
Eimaan
Dipen
Metin
Melody
Persheh
Esha
Reem



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>

Young Carers!

At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers. A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring unpaid for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. Research suggests there are at least 700,000 young carers in the UK, but many do not realise they are a young carer.

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well

at school. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified, and supported effectively.

A letter has gone home and staff training and assemblies for all students have taken place. This is our first step to supporting the young carers.

If you know a young carer or you are a young carer, please make sure you talk to Miss Hancock or Mrs Teale.

We are looking forward to the future and the support we will offer these students.

Miss Hancock & Mrs Teale

YOUNG CARERS

Are you aged under 18?

Do you live with someone who is ill or disabled or reliant on drugs or alcohol?

Do you take brothers and sisters to and from school?

Do you regularly cook, clean or shop for your family?

Do you collect prescriptions or help give medicines?

Do you help someone wash, dress and get them up in the mornings?


Answered **YES** to two or more of these questions?

Talk to **Miss N Hancock** (Head of Year 11) OR **Mrs J Teale** (Inclusion)





BERKSHIRE
TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

*Are you thinking about kick-starting an
exciting new career in teaching?*

TRAIN TO TEACH VIRTUAL EVENING



Thursday 26 November 2020 18.00 – 19.00

Are you thinking about kick-starting an exciting new career in teaching? If so, our Train to Teach event is the perfect opportunity for you to learn all you need to know about teacher training and how to apply.

Due to Covid, we are running the event virtually. The event will include a presentation from the Director of the Teaching School and Q&A session.

We work with the University of Reading to provide high quality training and support. Pass rates are high and our schools often retain

trainees through to NQT and beyond.

Maiden Erlegh is an 'Outstanding' school and collaborates with a variety of schools within its Alliance. You will train alongside outstanding teachers and gain excellent professional development.

All trainees must hold an undergraduate degree 2:2 or above and GCSE Maths C and English C. (Primary trainees also require a GCSE Science C).

**Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale
Road,
Earley, RG6 7HS**

www.berkshireteachingschoolalliance.co.uk
mesteachingschool@maidenerleghtrust.org



@berkshiretsa 0118 926 2467

To book contact

mesteachingschool@maidenerleghtrust.org

In partnership with the
Institute of Education



**University of
Reading**

Buying Set GCSE English Literature Texts – Years 9, 10, 11 – Parent Pay Online Bookshop

You are probably aware that we ask students to buy their own copies of our 3 set GCSE literature texts – *Macbeth*, *An Inspector Calls* and *A Christmas Carol*. The fourth text, a poetry anthology, is provided free to students by the exam board – Edexcel. We encourage students to buy their own books because they like to annotate them with notes from class which makes them unusable for future students. To make it easier for students to buy their books, we now have an online Parent Pay Bookshop where you can drop one of the set texts into your basket at any time. Once you have paid for the books, it will be delivered to your son/ daughter at the end of the week by their form tutor. There are also revision guides available to complement the set texts.

Any student who is in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding can apply for assistance with the cost of the books if needed – just email the office on meroffice@amidenerleghtrust.org to request this funding via your child's Pupil Premium Champion.

The link to the bookshop can be reached through the school website [Parent pay](#)
Mrs Escott-New



Year 10

The Journey Continues...

Well what a start to a year! There have been lots of changes with the start of the new year and the majority of Year 10 students have handled these brilliantly! They've got stuck into the new year and really engaged with the subjects making up some of the time they have missed! This is going to be a challenging two years for our group in the lead up to their GCSEs. As I mentioned in the information evening, there are 22 months until they will be sitting these, and for those doing RE and iMedia this year there are only 8 months to go! The RE and iMedia PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations) are taking place on the 22nd October and 5th

November; these are an important opportunity to prepare students for the exams later in the year, to see how they are progressing, and an excellent tool to identify areas of strength and development.

As a year group, we really need to make the most of the time we have and the run up to the GCSEs, preparing for them as early as possible, and I ask for your support in encouraging your child to fully engage with all of their lessons and homework. As we move through Year 10 and into Year 11, there is a big increase in expectations from every subject, and for some this is daunting. I will be there to support in school, and ask you to

support at home. We are all one big team! This is something I tell the year group often, that we aim to be the BEST team!

As I write this, our brilliant team has gained over 11,000 house points in under two months! This is very impressive! Let's beat this next half term though, and end 2020 on a high!!

Finally, I am really happy to have returned to being Head of Year 10. I missed seeing the students and dealing with them regularly. I am proud to be their Head of Year. As I said before, we aim to be the BEST team.

Miss Davies

Bereavement

In recent times, we are aware that some of our families have experienced the loss of a loved one. Please find a list of agencies that offer specialist bereavement support and guidance.

You are also welcome to contact the school and ask to speak to Josephine Murudzwa should you need any additional support with contacting any of the organisations listed. We are here to support you.



Bereavement

CONTACTS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

USEFUL WEBSITES

Cruse Bereavement Care

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/>

Hope Again

<https://www.hopeagain.org.uk/hope-again-parent>

Winston's Wish

www.winstonswish.org
Tel: 08088 020 021

For students

Lots of helpful resources

<https://www.hopeagain.org.uk/>

LOCAL HELP

West Berkshire Support

<http://www.crusewestberks.org/mailto:westberkshirebranch@cruse.org.uk>
Tel: 01635 523573

Daisy's Dream

<https://www.daisysdream.org.uk/>
Tel: 01189342604

Thames Valley
Berkshire Support
Local helpline on
01344 411919



School Street

We are currently consulting neighbours and parents about the possibility for the very busy Crescent Road to become a "School Street". If this goes ahead, this will mean that for 45 minutes, twice a day, the road will be closed to road traffic to improve the safety of the road and to protect students. Please look on our website [here](#) for more information. We are hoping that this might be in place in January.



Virtual Open Evenings and Parent Information Evenings



This term, we have worked hard to ensure that we still deliver our parent information evenings and our annual open evening. We have had to do this virtually but we have been delighted to see so many parents of current and potential future students join us online. Whilst none of our staff especially want jobs on TV, they have been doing an excellent job of presenting live to camera and delivering important, informative and helpful information. Please have a look at the resources we have on our website supporting our open evening [here](#).

Currently we are assuming that we will also be conducting parent progress meetings virtually – please look out for the guidance from the school.

U14 Boys' Basketball - The Magnificent Maiden Erlegh Reading

It has been nothing but victory for the undefeated Under 14 Boys basketball team. Lead by team captain Prajin, the dream team has proven themselves to be a real threat in the division. Looking confident, sharp and skilful, they accomplished comfortable wins against

local schools; Maiden Erlegh, JMA, Emmbrook, LVS and Hugh Farringdon. Whilst it is a real shame we did not have an opportunity to continue with our winning ways, we are really looking forward to seeing how far this team can go. They are certainly an outfit to watch out for in the future!#

Mr Galvin

National Portrait Gallery **HOLD STILL Exhibition Competition Finalists**

We had an exciting start to our term as our submission to the Hold Still project at the National Portrait Gallery was selected by the Duchess of Cambridge to be one of only 100 images (out of 31000 entries) in a digital gallery and it made it into the 'Director's Cut'. It is now live on the NPG website!

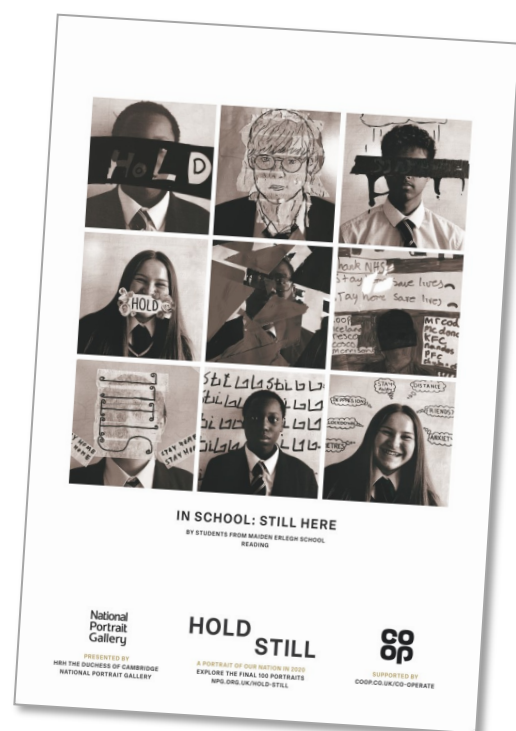
Please take time to view the exhibition, a really powerful presentation. Photographs were taken by members of the general public, exploring life in 'lockdown' – the whole country "Holding Still". The students' work, titled 'In School: Still Here' was made by a group of students from various year groups who were asked to 'destroy' their images based upon their experience of

lockdown. These students were part of our key worker and vulnerable provision, who had to come into school during lockdown and worked with staff to complete this project during that time.

The images have been displayed on marketing boards around the country and the photograph was featured in the Daily Mail and on BBC news outlets. We even received a letter from her Majesty the Queen, congratulating us on our entry.

We are so proud of our students and all they have achieved! This competition has proved to our artists that opportunities are out there and anything is possible!

Miss Jordan



Black History Month -Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Black History Month is a month of celebration and education where we look at the contribution of black people from all walks of life who have influenced the way that we live.

During Black History Month, we will learn how people of colour have contributed

to our history.

This year – 2020 in Maiden Erlegh School Reading Black History Month took on a different guise.

We looked at the contributions of men and women of various countries who have

contributed greatly not only to black history, but to history as a whole.

We sought to identify areas of the curriculum where individuals of colour are significantly lacking in representation and are looking at ways to bringing them to the forefront.



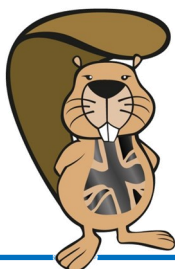
At Maiden Erlegh in Reading, we learned, through virtual assemblies, how the life of those of African heritage and the African Diaspora have been present in the United Kingdom since the 4th Century. Our senior students undertook a project to trace black history in our country from the Roman era to the present day. Our careers team have sought to inspire our students by focusing on black excellence within a number of industries to inspire our students to aim high.

As we move forward – we move toward a more inclusive and diverse curriculum for all our students. Thank you to all who have taken part in this.

Ms Headley

Computing - The Bebras Challenge 2020

The Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge is an annual event organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation and Oxford University to test the problem solving and abstract reasoning skills of students. Students get to practise their computational thinking skills while solving exciting, accessible, and puzzling questions. Last year over 250,000 people took part from UK schools, with the highest achievers invited to a special finalist event at Oxford University.



In the fortnight after half term, all our students in Year 7 and 8 plus GCSE Computer Scientists will be taking part in the challenge during their Computing lessons. We look forward to seeing some brilliant results from our young people, who regularly demonstrate excellent skills in this area. For anyone who would like to try the sort of questions that will be included, free apps are available for both Apple and Android mobile devices at <http://www.bebas.uk/bebrasapp.html>

Mr Redrup –
Strategic Lead for Computer Science

Click on envelope to view recent communications



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



Parent App -

Please contact us at parentapp@maidenersleghschool.co.uk for support.