



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

Dear readers,

This has been a half term like no other with the impact of the COVID pandemic really talking hold on staff and student absence. Yet despite the challenges that have been thrown at ALL of us, our school community has once again pulled together to support one another and ensure that students have the opportunity to learn and develop. I must thank my wonderful staff team who have chosen to go the extra mile on so many occasions to ensure that we could remain open and who have worked so hard to support students who have had to work at home, learning remotely.

None of the measures we have had to implement have been ideal, yet what has struck me has been the positive attitude and disposition of so



many of our wonderful students. Rather than crumbling in the face of difficulty, they have pushed forward and have been determined not to let the challenges that we face defeat them.

As a result, school life has continued apace. We might not have been able to offer our usual range of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, but that has not stood in the way of our students making significant contributions to the life and culture of the school as the stories and articles in this edition of the Pulse make clear. From the determined focus of our year 11 students completing their PPEs to the stunning charity work of our student leadership team, to the positive enthusiasm of our record breaking house-point earning year 7s, Maiden Erleigh School in Reading has moved



on from the lockdown and, I am happy to report, is thriving.

Yet the challenges of the term have taken their toll and everyone I think is ready for a break. So I do wish all of the MER community a very peaceful Christmas break. It is also with great optimism that I wish you a happy new year. With the promise of a COVID vaccine and our continued positive approach, we know that as a school and as a community we will succeed and prosper.

Do enjoy reading this edition of The Pulse.

Best Wishes and
Happy Christmas!



Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge Results

The results for this year's Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge have arrived at school, and include some very impressive scores. All students in Year 7 and Year 8 plus GCSE Computer Scientists will be given certificates to take home before the end of term, so look out for these, plus plenty of house points

Four students in particular performed brilliantly, and were awarded 'Best in School' for their particular age group. These are Zinovi in Year 7, Samyak in Year 9 and Ben and Jonathan jointly in

Year 11, who all win a Golden Ticket and hot chocolate with the Head.

Mr Redrup – Strategic Lead for Computer





Knife Chopping

The year 9's had a knife chopping practical class this term. Here are some pictures of their creative skills.

Miss Frost

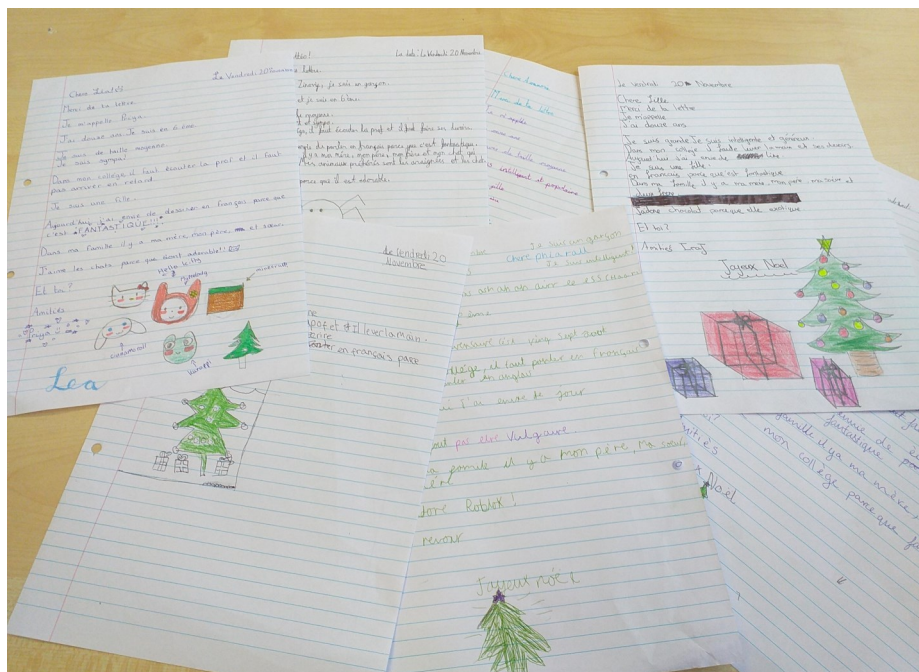


Writing for a purpose!

There were three very excited French classes this week when each Year 7 student received a letter from France! We have teamed up with a school in Lille in the north east of France

and all our year 7 French students have replied to their penfriend.

Joyeux Noel to all from the MFL department



Silver Award for Young Carer Support

We are proud to say we have achieved the Silver award for our work in making sure Young Carers don't miss out on an education!

To achieve the Silver Award we have had to demonstrate that we support young carers in many ways, including awareness raising with pupils and staff, and by building links within the local community. Young carers are consulted with, and vital information is made available to pupils and families, letting them know where to go for help.

We are very proud of this achievement and know the work we do with the Young Carers makes a difference.

Miss Hancock & Mrs Teale



Year 8

It's been a topsy-turvy year for Year 8s. Having missed a huge portion of year 7, the challenge has been for them to find their feet quickly and get back into the swing of things – and full credit to the vast majority of them who have stepped up and shown what strong stuff they are made of. During double points week year 8s earned an enormous 7351 house points, which equates to about 40 house points per student, an incredible success. As well as this, year 8s endured a day of home learning attending synchronous and asynchronous lessons. Once again, the many outshone the few and proved that this year group is ready to learn. A number of students have been able to share their success with Mr Johnson during Hot Chocolate Friday (on a Wednesday) and we look forward to carrying that on into 2021. All in all, a very different and challenging year for Year 8 but as they say 'No pressure, No diamonds'. Mr Rabin



Year 11

As a year group we have started the year with a great enthusiasm, spirit and positivity. I was very, very proud of how you came back to school after lockdown.



You sat your PPEs in October – you approached this with maturity, responsibility and you showed the school how examinations should be done. You set the standard and this needs to continue for your real GCSEs. Well done!

We are currently completing references for your next steps, and every time, I smile because I am writing so many lovely things about you. Your next school/college are going to be so lucky to have you!

November hit – the evenings got darker, it was colder and we were hit with 1 or 2 positive cases of Covid. But it wasn't until 16th November that it really affected us. A positive case meant, Year 11 was shut

down. We had to send you home for 2 weeks, with over 60 students/teachers having to isolate for 2 weeks.

We had to change our way of working:

No Year 11 in school

Online Learning

Live Lessons

Yet again, it was another proud moment. As your HOY, this was a surreal situation. You handled it amazingly, supporting and helping staff to get you safely home.

Throughout the 2 weeks, you took to online learning well. We put in the school day structure with registration in the morning and it was a good chance for

your tutors to see you and check in with you. The majority of you completed the school days, not missing any learning opportunities.

We are coming up to Christmas – our last Christmas together! After that we are on the GCSE countdown!

Throughout this message – one thing has been consistent.

I am so proud of you!

Keep making me proud!

Enjoy the holidays and I am VERY excited to see what 2021 brings us

Miss Hancock

English Stars of the Christmas Half Term:

This award recognises that these students have worked through the Autumn Term impressively, demonstrating high levels of effort and determination. Their teachers have nominated them to receive this award.



YEAR 7:	Manfred	Saurya
Kenzo	Ian	Barona
Harvey	Raja-Shahroz	YEAR 10:
Parth	Mahnoor	Rahaf
Sarah	Lamya	Kinga
Noriah	Natalia	Megan
Kevin	KylaSonia	YEAR 11:
Tawheed	Ella	Alimah
Charlie	Eva	Alona
Mysha	Leona	Wasim
Mobeen	Daniella	Ghulam
Lena	Polina	Eliza
India	Leanne	Subeen
Yan	Vishnupriya	Phoebe
Jennifer	Maxina	Maariya
Eleeza	Dhiraj	Persheh
Ella	Andrei	Anima
YEAR 8:	T'Shya	Zoha
Andreea	Alexya	Billy
Costel	Emek	Reem
Amabella		

House Captain and Vice-Captain Applications

Over the last few weeks, many of our students have been putting together applications for the roles of House Captain and Vice-Captain.

As part of the House Event during

Pastoral Day, this year's House Captain Scheme was launched. In such an unpredictable year, we don't know entirely what the roles of House and Vice Captain will entail, so students needed to demonstrate their appetite for attacking the task with a degree of flexibility along with plenty of enthusiasm!

There were dozens of applications for the roles in all three houses and many students chose to take up the new opportunity to apply for



both posts with a friend on a 'joint-ticket.' As well as traditional written applications, this year, students were able to demonstrate their creativity by applying with a campaign poster or even submitting an application video.

Miss McElhinney, Mr Galvin and Mr Murphy were all very impressed with the quality of applications received and look forward to announcing the new team during the final assembly of the year.

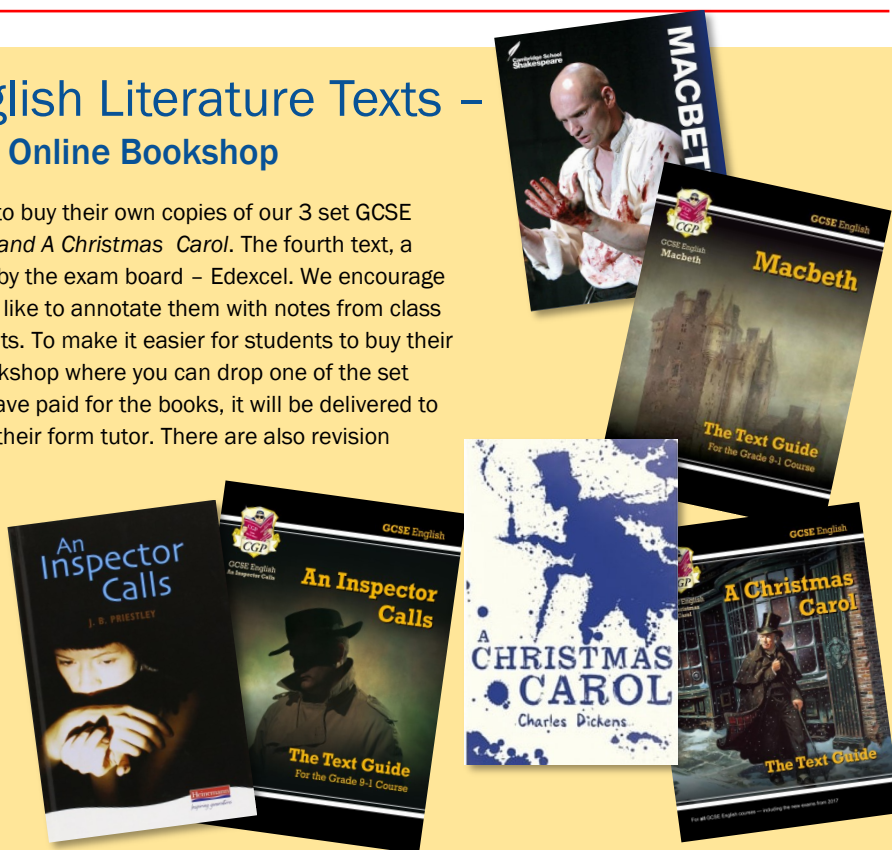


Buying Set GCSE English Literature Texts – Years 9, 10, 11 – Parent Pay Online Bookshop

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



GCSEPod

We are delighted to announce that we have recently invested in GCSEPod, the award-winning digital content and revision provider used by over 1,250 schools worldwide.

Students in Years 9-11 now have access to GCSEPod's library of over 6,000 'Pods,' 3-5 minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts. GCSEPod makes learning and revision much more manageable: every Pod is mapped to an exam board, and contains all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success – all neatly organised into topics and exam playlists.

One of the best things about GCSEPod is that you can download any Pod to your child's mobile device, and then they can watch them at any time, in any place, with or without internet. It's like they're carrying a whole set of textbooks in their pocket! Make sure you download the GCSEPod app

from the App Store (Apple and Android are supported) to access this feature.

GCSEPod also has the ability to identify knowledge gaps and automatically send playlists to help fill them. After completing any homework set on GCSEPod, your child will get a personalised "Boost Playlist" of

library and create their own playlists – just as they would when they're listening to music.

For more ways to support your child using GCSEPod, please visit www.gcsepod.com/parents where you'll find lots more information and resources.



gcsepod
education on demand



JUST LAUNCHED

An exciting new
e-learning platform
to help with your GCSEs

Helping your grades soar!
Log on now @ www.GCSEPod.com



podup
podcasts & audio

Pods relevant to their identified areas of weakness. We strongly suggest you encourage your child to review these playlists regularly as this will speed up their progress.

We recommend that you talk about GCSEPod with your son or daughter – check that they've successfully activated their account and encourage them to make use of this amazing resource throughout their GCSEs. Once they've activated their account, they can browse the GCSEPod

password, please ask them to contact a member of staff.

Go to www.gcsepod.com and click "Login" in the top right-hand corner
Click "Sign in with Google"

Select or type in your **Google Classroom username and password**.

If you have any questions regarding GCSEPod please contact **Ms Hind** who is leading on GCSEPod.

Your child has already been registered with GCSEPod, so all they need to do is activate their account by following the instructions below. If your child has already activated but can't remember their username and



Bread Rolls

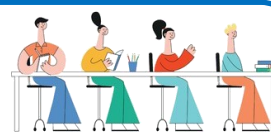
Class 9C produced amazing 'quick bread rolls' in their practical on Wednesday 2nd December. After great dough making, the class demonstrated fantastic shaping skills which were extremely creative and imaginative.

Miss Frost



Year 10

Well, another half term is done! This has been a very busy half term: it seems to have flown by!



We've had lots going on. Lots of students applied to be peer mediators and we selected 12 students for the roles...it was quite a decision to pick them. I was so proud to read all the applications and listen to their answers in the interviews. All the students involved conducted themselves brilliantly, which just made it even harder to pick the final 12. Towards the end of the year we will also be looking to select the new student leadership team and the Head Boy and Head Girl – I hope lots of students get involved and I can't wait to read the applications for this – I know it will be hard to decide once again.

We have also had our Pastoral Day on 6 November. This was an off-timetable day where Year 10s had a variety of sessions on topics such as careers, destinations and mental health. I dropped into a number of these sessions and was so impressed with the students'

engagement with the discussions and tasks that they were given and I hope they had some useful information to take away with them too.

We have also started the after school catch up sessions for a number of students and subjects – this is another great opportunity for the students to help with their progress along the journey towards their GCSEs.

Next term will be just as busy. We have Think Ahead day and the Year 10 PPEs will be in March so there will be lots of preparation for these.

I have been so impressed with my year group so far, and as I have mentioned in the Information Evening it is great to be back with them. I'm looking forward to seeing what the next half term holds.

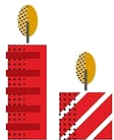
Miss Davies

Giving Tree

Christmas foodbank collection in support of ReadiFood, Reading's Food Bank

ReadiFood
Reading's Food Bank





STUDENT VOICE

School council

2020 has been a tough year, but it's great to hear all your suggestions on improving our school in our bi-monthly meetings. Our school council discussed topics such as anti-bullying, environmentally friendly approaches to school waste, ways of encouraging students to feel safe during these difficult times and much more. If you have any feedback for ideas on house competitions or useful thoughts that could be discussed during meetings, please let your tutor rep know.



Samuel

Sports coordinator

This year has not been the best year to host sporting events because of COVID - 19. But I have had so many ideas for our school. Why not start off with running a **kilometre a day, for 12 days starting from the 12th of December**. You can post all your evidence in your Form Google classroom. Finally, I want you entering 2021 knowing that it will get better and there are lots of different events that will be happening, so I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you next year and Take care.



Mikhile

Mentoring

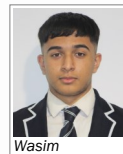
I have had the privilege this year to be a part of the mentoring programme. This entails a selection of year 10 & 11 students chatting and spending time with a year 7 student to get to know each other and talk about any worries or concerns the pupil is facing at school. A good mentor is someone who guides and offers support as well as being a good listener. If you think you may need a mentor, please speak to your tutor.



Holly

A note from your Head Boy and Head Girl

We would like to say that it was amazing to see how much everyone contributed to our charitable events this half term especially our shoe box appeal. It means a lot to us seeing that our school takes pride in trying to make everyone's lives better. Even though Covid-19 is preventing all the events we want to do, we, the senior students strive to continue improving the school and making it merrier. We hope you look forward to all the upcoming events we have planned for 2021 and we wish you a happy holiday and a promising new year.



Wasim and Ayusha

Charity committee

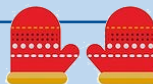


We can't thank everyone enough for all the donations we received this term and we hope to see the same level of dedication after the Christmas break! All of your contributions are greatly appreciated and every thought counts. We have more exciting events planned so keep up the good work!



Laiba and Ella

Launchpad walk a mile in someone else's shoes



£88 was raised. Students got involved creating their own Big Sleep out At Home, for example Lola.



Christmas shoe boxes

We were so happy to collect 48 boxes filled with items for the homeless. Your generosity is outstanding.



Eco Committee



I can't believe it's nearly Christmas! We've had to put our plans for the school garden on hold due to Covid, but there's still lots you can do to help the environment at school. At the moment there is a box in the atrium where you can recycle your crisp packets, and we're working on labelling all the bins more clearly, which will hopefully help

us to recycle more in general. There will also be an eco-board going up soon, where our plans and ideas will be displayed, and from January we will start looking for more people to join the Eco Committee, so don't hesitate if you're interested. I hope you have a wonderful and relaxing Christmas holiday.



Helene



STUDENT VOICE

What's coming up

We've got our annual Festive jumper day to look forward to. We can't wait to see how many baubles and how much tinsel people can add to their woolly jumper to make it more festive.

We're continuing with our new tradition of The Giving Tree. Students and staff have been donating food with a long shelf life that can be dropped off at our local food bank – Readifood.

We're recycling crisp packets to be sent off and be turned into insulating blankets for the homeless.

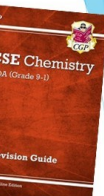
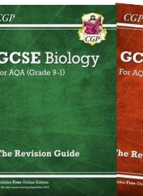
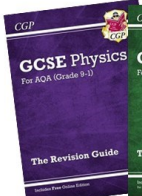
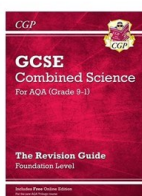
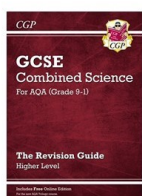
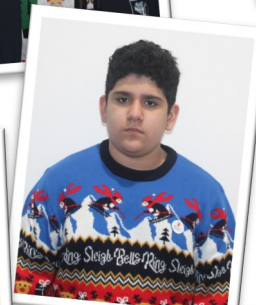
Christmas cards and Festive wishes.

We're creating a Christmas Card delivery scheme. If you want your Christmas cards to be delivered to your friends or tutor, pop their name and tutor group on the envelope and into the school Christmas Card post box on top of the lockers near 21B and they'll be delivered during Friday tutor periods before Christmas.



Christmas Jumper Day

On December the 11th students were able to wear their favourite Christmas jumper to school with all proceeds going to Save the Children.



YEAR 11: GCSE SCIENCE REVISION GUIDES AVAILABLE!

- Year 11 students can now purchase Science Revision guides from the Parent Pay Bookshop at a discounted price, as explained in the letter home from the Science department on 1st December.
- Once you have paid for the books, it will be delivered to you at the end of the week by your form tutor.



Maiden Erlegh School in Reading held its first ever 'Double House Points Week' at the end of November.

Double Points Week 23rd - 27th November 2020		
NOW ON HOUSE POINTS WEEK		
GRIFFIN TRITON PHOENIX		
TOP SCORES WHOLE WEEK		
BOYS		GIRLS
4881	YEAR 7	4108
3524	YEAR 8	3827
2494	YEAR 9	2845
3459	YEAR 10	2936
1475	YEAR 11	1408
15833	TOTAL	15124

Every time that students were awarded a House Point during that week, they were awarded a second bonus point.

Competition for House Points during the week was fierce – not only among the students who clearly responded to the incentive, but also between the staff, who

were keen to reward their students for their hard work!

At the end of the week all the points were counted and verified – [you can watch the results film HERE](#).

Eleeza (7T2), Abdul (8P1), Aadam (9P1), Fahad (10G1) and Alimah (11G2) were the

top-scoring students in their respective year groups, while the most successful tutor groups were 7T2, 8T2, 9T1, 10G2 and 11G1.

The boy/girl split of house points was incredibly close. In Year 8 and Year 9, the girls scored more House Points than

the boys. However across the whole school, the boys just about beat the girls!

When it came to dishing out House Points, the Maths Department were by far the most generous, but the teacher who awarded more points than any other was Ms Allsop.

Overall, the final house point totals during Double Points Week saw Triton coming out

on top with 10,679 points, ahead of second place Phoenix on 10,315 and the bronze medal went to Griffin for their 9963 points.

There are two more Double Points Weeks to

come this school-year with the next one in the Spring.



MOST GENEROUS TEACHER	
Ms Allsop	1812
Miss Ryan	1778
Miss Hawes	1695
Mr Tomsett	1497
Miss Phillips	1301

MOST GENEROUS SUBJECT	
Maths	5829
English	3801
Geography	2805
Science	2577
PE	1488

	1ST	2ND	3RD
Year 7	Phoenix 13,895	Griffin 12,519	Triton 12,100
Year 8	Phoenix 11,465	Triton 10,731	Griffin 9369
Year 9	Triton 9786	Phoenix 9232	Griffin 7899
Year 10	Griffin 9749	Phoenix 8851	Triton 7647
Year 11	Griffin 8000	Triton 7109	Phoenix 6562
Whole School	Phoenix 49404	Griffin 47509	Triton 47371

TERM DATES	
Spring	4 January - 12 February 2021
	22 February - 1 April 2021
CPD	27 January 2021

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.