



# ThePulse

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

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

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we approach the Easter holidays and as spring bursts into life, it is with great relief that I can proudly report that our school is fully open and very much back into the swing of teaching and supporting our students. I would like to thank all of our parents, staff and of course our students for showing resilience and determination to overcome the challenges of the lockdown. Our students have returned to school eager to learn and delighted to see their friends and classmates. Whilst our school is a place of work and endeavour, it is first and foremost a community and I think we are all delighted to see our community back together again.

My staff are very focused on the challenges that the lockdown has thrown our way, but we are very determined not to accept the negative and defeatist mindset of some of the voices we hear on the national stage. I think it is better that we focus on the positive achievements of so many of our hardworking students during lockdown and highlight the learning that has been accomplished and the brave triumphs achieved. Students have done so well and worked so hard in difficult circumstances and everyone

involved with our online provision (including our parents) deserves huge thanks and praise for what was accomplished. Yes, we will need to make curriculum adjustments and provide support those students for whom lockdown was most challenging and we have in place a carefully planned and robust catch-up strategy to support this. But for the majority, of students, through our robust curriculum and through great teaching, we believe that the long term educational impact of the lockdown can and will be minimised over time. I certainly don't buy the line that our students are a "lost generation" or who are condemned to a life of underachievement and this has been clearly shown in the way that our year 11 students have returned to school and have immediately thrown themselves into their all-important PPE examinations and other year groups have got back into their learning routines.

We were delighted with the success of our mass testing programme. It was a huge challenge for us to set up and run a testing centre in the school at the same time as reopening the school for our normal business. Yet my amazing staff

and some fantastic community volunteers made this happen. I should like to publicly thank this marvellous and generous team for their contribution to ensuring our school has opened safely.

After Easter and as long as COVID restrictions allow, we would like to get our extra-curricular programme going. Staff are champing at the bit to launch long delayed clubs and opportunities. Fingers crossed that the prevalence of COVID remains low and that we are able to do these – everyone has missed them. We also await government guidance about the safety measures we are implementing in school – these are being reviewed by the DfE during the Easter break. We will let you know as more information is published.

Despite the restrictions much has been going on in the school. Hopefully this edition of the Pulse gives you a flavour.

*May I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Easter break.*



## Tesco Virtual Work Experience

Congratulations to Sai from year 11 who spent time over lockdown to participate in the Tesco Virtual Work Experience Programme. She attended a number of workshops and careers talks and has certainly developed her employability skills. The Tesco team were so impressed by Sai's work, dedication and enthusiasm during the sessions that they have awarded the school a gift voucher. Well done Sai – in the words of Tesco's pre-employability manager **"an absolute credit to the school"**.



Providing specialist support for Berkshire Families who have Children and Young People with Special Needs.

Events on line and via zoom for parents and carers.

[www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk](http://www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk)

**Year 11**

**WE ARE BACK!**

**We have got a very exciting few months ahead of us.**

### Back to school

I am so glad to see you back in the building, back in front of teachers and back learning. Please remember you are the leaders of the school and must lead by example, starting with your uniform and how you behave in the corridors – **Ready, Safe, Respectful**. Also keep your masks on, hand sanitize and keep your distance. You need to show the younger years how it is done!

### Your X-Factor Final

Everyone has their moment and we are on the lead up to ours. We have completed PPE1 and Lockdown – this is the first round of our audition. We have smashed it and made it to the judge's houses. PPE2 is our next audition and I know you will be doing everything you can to achieve at this. Then we will have the lead up to our Live Final! Our final bits of learning, our final assessments and our final goodbye!

### PPE2

This starts on the **22<sup>nd</sup> March** and I know you will already be preparing for this.

Make sure you have a clear revision plan which includes a break (I know what some of you are like!) and asking your teachers what they think you need to focus your revision on. Remember this is your opportunity to shine! Remember you are Year 11 so you should expect an increase in work load – just take it day by day. **YOU CAN DO IT!**

### Worried/Anxious/Stressed?

This is a worrying time BUT remember you need to look after yourselves. Get yourself organised, plan your time and think about what you need to do. Then talk to your tutors – they are there for you and want to support you through this time! Classcharts is also there for you to record your feelings – this is checked regularly. Do not suffer in silence – we are there for you!



### Making Assumptions

Please do not guess or make assumptions about things going on, whether this is about Covid-19, examinations and your leavers day. Remember we will keep you updated. You do not need added worries by gossip!

### My Message

It makes me so sad that I cannot be in school with you, I miss you all! I miss the smiles in the corridors, the conversations, the knocks on my office door, the laughs and the banter! I know Mr Bandy and your tutors will look after you and get you through the next few months. My baby girl will be here soon and I can't wait for you to meet her!

Even though times have changed and I am not there – please remember the most important thing is for you to believe in yourself, you **CAN** succeed and you **CAN** do well. I believe in you!

Remember that even though I am not in school, I am at the end of an email – I will try and check them.

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

**Please keep working hard and do not give up in the last few crucial months.**



As a challenge and as part of "World Book Day", French students in years 7, 8 and 9 have been writing about their favourite book and why they like it. They used the French words learned over lockdown to describe their book and justify their choice. Well done to all who took part!

Ms Bourienne



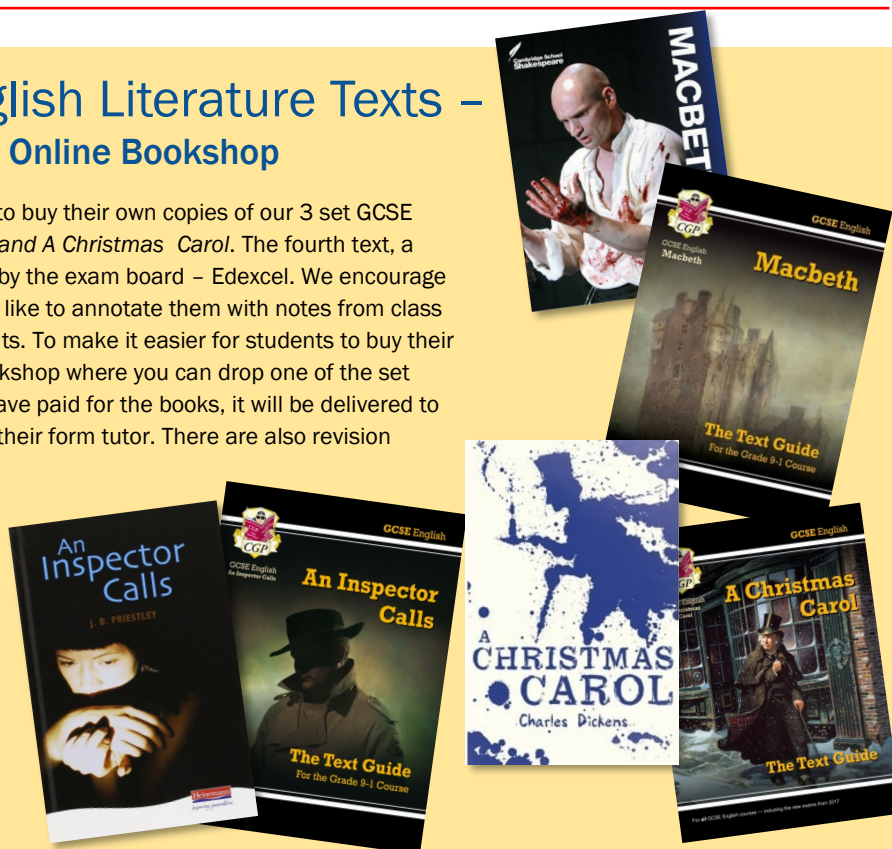


## Buying Set GCSE English Literature Texts – Years 9, 10, 11 – Parent Pay Online Bookshop

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](mailto: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 9 Savoury Mince

My year 9 Food Preparation and Nutrition Class carried out a 'Savoury Mince' practical today (Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Period 5). They worked extremely hard and used a great variety of different vegetables, beans and other ingredients to enhance the flavour and texture of the

dish. The aromas coming from room 006 food room were very fragrant and the results speak for themselves.

Miss Frost





## Congratulations to Ibrahim (Ibby)

Ibby has been part of a training programme with Oxford United Football Club for the past year.



For the last few months he has been playing with the U18's squad regularly and the squad recently won the EFL Youth Alliance League with Ibby playing a big part in this.

Ibby has also been offered a 2-season scholarship with Oxford United FC. This is amazing news!

Ibby has worked incredibly hard in school and with his football career. It just shows that with a bit of hard work, not giving up and believing in himself – he has followed his dreams and his dream has become a bit of a reality! As a school we could not be prouder and we wish him all the luck over the next 2 seasons!

Congratulations Ibby!

### Don't forget to register for **Parent App**

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- Behaviour and achievements
- Receive notifications
- School terms and inset days  
*and much more*

Click link below for information:

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attachments/download.asp?  
file=1407&type=pdf](http://www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1407&type=pdf)

## Year 10 We made it back!!



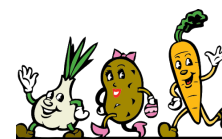
On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March Year 10 returned to school after their first Covid test on the day prior. It was great to see everyone back in school after almost 3 months away! As I said in my last update, I am so incredibly proud of Year 10 and their efforts over the lockdown as the vast majority took their home learning very seriously. This will be beneficial to them as we continue our journey towards GCSEs.

This term is always one of the shorter, but busier, ones and it definitely feels it! The year group has hit the ground running with their return to work and the majority of students have had a brilliant return, from their uniform and equipment, to their efforts in lesson.

Year 10 students have their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) coming up for RE and iMedia on 31<sup>st</sup> March which are really important exams and I know the students that study these subjects will be taking this very seriously. It is the biggest step so far on our journey towards the final GCSEs.

Over the next half term we will look to be selecting our Senior Students for when we reach Year 11, and after the impressive applications I received for the Peer Mediators I cannot wait to see the applications I receive from the students for these roles. I know they will be incredible, and yet another demonstration of why I am so proud of being Head of Year 10. Miss Davies

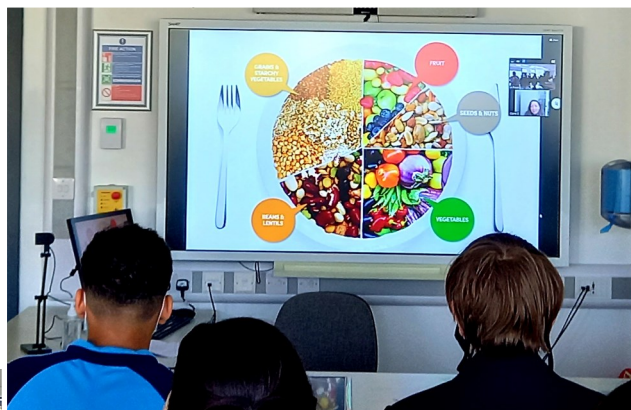
## Animal Aid - Veganism Talk



Today (Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Period 5) my year 9 Food Preparation and Nutrition Class were joined by a live guest speaker from the company 'Animal Aid' who gave a talk on the topic of Veganism. The talk looked into different types of vegan foods, reasons for becoming vegan, how animals are treated, health reasons, nutritional considerations and environmental factors.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the talk, were very engaged and asked great questions.

Miss Frost









## Rapid Lateral Flow Testing Centre

We have now completed 1,971 lateral flow tests over the period from 8-18 March 2021. Support staff have managed to carry out tests on top of their usual day jobs as we balance the needs of testing with the needs of students as we reopen the school. We are all very grateful to those involved and would particularly like to thank volunteers from the local community for giving up their

time to support the testing programme. All students who have been tested in school have now been provided with home testing kits and we hope that wide scale testing will continue to keep the school community as safe as possible during the pandemic. We would also like to thank parents for their co-operation with the testing programme.

## Year 8 Southern-style Chicken

Year 8 Food Preparation and nutrition students have been making 'southern-style chicken' this week. They have been very creative in choosing their own seasonings for a variety of different flavours. They have also learned how to check the internal temperature of chicken using a meat probe to make sure their chicken is cooked properly to avoid food poisoning!



Miss Frost





During Lockdown, Year 11 students were asked to design a poster about themselves in Spanish as part of their expansion into Theme 1 (Identity and Culture). Here are just some of the amazing entries that were submitted. Well done to everyone that took part. 🇪🇸🇪🇸🇪🇸

Mr Winstanley

Mr Winstanley

# ¿COMO ES TU FAMILIA?

↳ What's your family like?

→ vivo con mi hermano, mis padres, mi abuela y mi perro. creo que mi familia es una familia típica porque siempre lo pasamos bien juntos, y no tenemos en muchos de sus costumbres.

## PLANES FUTUROS

↳ Future plans

→ ahora estoy en instituto, en un par de meses, quiero ir de bachillerato de Maudslayi College para estudiar biología, química y matemáticas.

en el futuro espero que dejar de ser molesto y seguir ayudando a mis amigos

!HOLA! me llamo

ALYSHA

yo soy...

soy de altura mediana, no soy ni gorda ni delgada. Tengo los ojos marrón. Tengo el pelo largo y no tengo pecos tambien no uso gafas.

## ¿COMO ERES?

↳ What are you like?

→ mis amigos dicen que soy muy trabajador y aguantar la mala veces puedo ser

cuando era más joven, cuando estaba en una zona que estaba...  
 me dio de cinco años, pero cuando me dio de cinco años, me dio de cinco años...  
 en el futuro, si soy rico, quisiera...  
 una piscina, un coche...  
 hacer, a veces me gusta ir a...  
 relajarme y una...  
 me da...  
 me da...

Me llamo Hafza y tengo 15 años.  
Mi cumpleaños es el quince de mayo y me encanta porque  
hace buen tiempo. Creo que soy extrovertida porque me  
gusta hablar con la gente también mis amigos dicen que  
soy muy habladora. Mis amigos les gusta jugar  
fútbol conmigo pero tuve una lesión en la  
espalda hace dos años, así que ahora no  
puedo hacer deporte.

mi madre dice que  
me parezco a  
mi hermana  
porque los dos  
tenemos la  
misma nariz,  
y labios, tengo  
tres hermanas  
y cuatro herma-  
nos y mi  
hermano  
mayor tiene  
ojos azules  
como mi  
padre.

Tengo ojos marrones,  
oscuros y pestañas  
largas que mi mamá  
dice que es mi mejor  
característica.  
También tengo pelo  
negro pero un poquito  
es marrón oscuro  
como mi  
hermana.

cuando era más joven quería ser abogado porque me  
gusta discutir con la gente pero ahora  
quero ser cirujano de espalda porque  
me parece interesante. Si fuera rica  
en el futuro, compraría un BMW m2, un BMW m3  
y el BMW serie 7, porque con mis autos favoritos  
y me encanta mucho BMW.

ANISHA

Tengo quince años.

Disfruto viajando y espero ir a muchos países con mi familia en el futuro. Quiero ir a Singapur porque todavía no he visto mucho Asia.

En mi familia hay cuatro personas. Pero espero que algún día tengamos otro miembro de la familia, un perro.

La gente dice que me estoy amorosa como una madre. Quiero estudiar medicina para ayudar a los personas y los families a estar con las personas que aman.

[illegible]



## A Place in Our Community

For PSMSC this term, year 9 have been looking at various topics on the theme of 'A Place in Our Community'. On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March, the topic was on 'Visible and Invisible Disability'. The students were lucky to listen to the life story of Paralympian athlete 'Scott Meenagh' who sadly lost both of his legs whilst serving as a soldier in the Parachute Regiment. Scott gave the students great insight about the similarities, differences and diversity among people of different abilities and disability. Scott finished the talk by giving light on some strategies for safely challenging stereotyping and prejudice when experiencing it in daily life. The students found the talk really interesting and very thought provoking.

Miss Frost



## Return to School in the Arts

The return to face to face school has given the arts faculty (Art, Drama, Music & Photography) the opportunity to relaunch the practical side of each subject where COVID risk assessments have permitted. The faculty have taken a "practical first" approach in order to strengthen and consolidate the online learning during lockdown. This has given each subject the ability to move forward and accelerate the progress of students towards mastery of their individual skills. More than this, however, we recognise that a lockdown affects different people in different ways, and it is well known that access to the arts

supports the mental health of learners, with our "practical first" approach being tailored to challenge students so they can succeed in their own individual way.

After the Easter holidays, we hope to be able to relaunch a comprehensive extra curricular programme across all arts subjects, and staff within the faculty are already working on plans to develop and risk assess this. We are all looking forward to this exciting programme.

Mr Butchers



Year 9 students studying drama.



### Instrument Purchase Scheme



If you are considering purchasing an instrument for your child, did you know you can purchase it through the school to get it tax free? That's a reduction of 20% on any musical instrument! For more details, please contact Mr Butchers.



### Instrumental Lessons with Berkshire Maestros

We are very fortunate to have been able to positively risk assess our programme of instrumental lessons through Berkshire Maestros, and these have been ongoing through the pandemic after school, or via Zoom during the lockdowns. If you are interested in signing up for lessons on any instrument, parents should sign up through [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk). All information and prices can be found through their website.

Mr Butchers

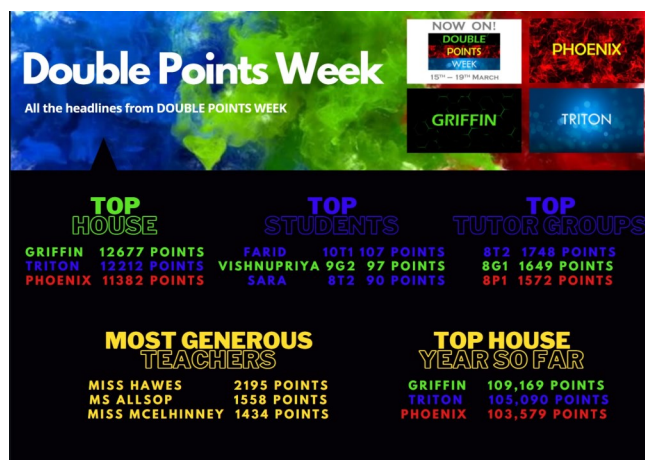


## Double House Point Week

Our second 'Double House Points Week' of the school year ran from 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March and it was the highest scoring week in the history of the school. A total of 36,270 House Points were awarded by staff through the week to reward the hard work of students during the first full week back in school since the lockdown.

A three-minute film showing some of the top achievements can be seen by clicking on this link.

<R:\MERAdmin\ENRICHMENT\HOUSE\Double Points Week March 21.mp4>



## Lockdown House Points

Remote learning has been a challenge for everyone. It has been tough for students, staff and parents. Nevertheless, the Maiden Erlegh Reading community pulled together and we saw some fantastic learning going on throughout the national lockdown. Our students produced some fantastic work from all those at home and in 'Special Provision' at school.

A three-minute film showing some of the top achievements can be seen by clicking on this link.

<R:\MERAdmin\ENRICHMENT\HOUSE\Lockdown Legends.mp4>



## Careers Week



The month of March brought us both Women's History Month and National Careers Week, so we thought what better way than to combine the two!

Throughout the month, we have been looking into a different career for every day, beginning with A and working our way through to Z. These professions have ranged from architects to zoologists and everything in between. Sharing information on what is required of the role, and what qualifications you may need has been eye opening to many of the students.

Not only have we been looking at an A-Z of careers, but we've had #careersweek4 where we have celebrated women who have done their part during the Covid-19 pandemic. Each subject had a selected influential woman, and the students had some great discussions about the qualities needed for each job, and what qualifications they may have needed. Examples include tennis player Serena Williams and scientist Sarah Gilbert who co-developed the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine that many people are receiving today.

We're all looking forward to #careersweek5 where we can learn some more about what's out there for the future!  
Miss L Ryan

### TERM DATES

Summer	19 April - 28 May 2021
	7 June - 21 July 2021
CPD Days	1 July 2021

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