



01 April 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

What a term! I must thank you all for your support of the schools – your encouragement, positive messages and the kindness shown to staff has made a huge difference.

Your children have been tremendous. Whether little ones or older ones, they have come back positively, settled well and shown that they have learned a tremendous amount over lockdown (not just school work, but about themselves). I have said before, and will say it again, these children and young people are not lost, nor have they fallen behind; they are shining lights and inspirations to us all.

I have had the privilege in speaking to a number of them over this term, and when I ask them what they have learned about themselves over lockdown, a common theme is the pride in how they have developed skills and confidence in a number of areas, and how they have learned to appreciate things they took for granted e.g. the outside, family, not being on a screen!!

A key feature of this term has been lateral flow testing. A special acknowledgement must go to all the staff and volunteers who have helped with this. It was a mammoth effort which ran brilliantly smoothly. The School Business Managers and staff organising this have been fantastic.

Schools are very mindful of providing support, advice and encouragement where necessary. All schools have been monitoring what has been learnt and how well it has been learnt. They are carefully adapting lessons to ensure that knowledge and skills are consolidated so that pupils and students build their confidence back up. Some will need a little more. That is okay – our schools are very experienced in evaluating what can be done at varying levels, to support learning.

Schools are also being very vigilant as far as the children and young people's social and emotional confidence and wellbeing are concerned. A key feature of supporting them was returning to "normal" routines and expectations, as well as time with friends and familiar faces. Seeing how well they came back and responded is very encouraging - it is testament to the strength of our schools and the systems we have in place to support everyone involved, but also the positivity of the pupils and students.

"Examination results" are on the minds of those in secondaries, including Cranbury College and Hamilton School. Colleagues across the Trust are working together to ensure the preparation for providing Year 11 and Year 13 Teacher Assessed Grades is robust, fair and transparent. We are now receiving more information from Ofqual, the Boards and other bodies, and will share arrangements with everyone as soon as possible.

Thank you also for filling in our annual surveys which have now closed. The outcomes are being looked at and schools will get back to you through the "*You said, We did*" pages on the websites next term.

We have advanced our Diversity & Inclusion Actions, not least in terms of the curriculum and recruitment strategies. The work is clearly not finished but it is very pleasing to see how much

has already been achieved and that a recent staff survey indicated very positive perceptions of our commitment to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

This term is always an important one for options and careers planning. Even during lockdown this continued with a very successful Virtual Careers Fair on 2 February. Our Careers Team publish a regular newsletter called Careers Spotlight, do watch out for it on social media or have a look [here](#).

As we go into the Easter break, the sun is out and we are able to do a little more and see a few more people. There are grounds for optimism which is a good thing. Thank you again for your support, you will never know how much your words of kindness and encouragement mean to staff. Have a safe and happy break.

Yours faithfully



Miss M Davies  
Chief Executive Officer

# NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

## GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have been awarded All Together School Silver status from the Anti-Bullying Alliance for our work to reduce bullying – great work by Miss Baillie and the team.



EYFS children have been digging for dinosaurs inside the classroom and exploring their outside play area to see what things they can find now that the weather is turning more spring-like.

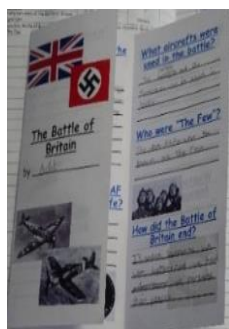


KS1 have spent some time exploring around the wildlife area and the playground looking for minibeasts



The children in LKS2 have been enjoying their Geography lessons looking at atlases and finding out more about where we live in the world.

They have also been discovering about reflective surfaces and how some materials will reflect light and others do not.



UKS2 have begun to find out all about the Battle of Britain and the Blitz. They have explored what life was like on the Home Front and the changes to daily life for both men, women and even children.



They have studied the different methods used by the government to keep everyone safe from propaganda to the roles of Air-Raid Wardens. In DT, they also had a go at designing, and making, their own Anderson Shelters.

Across the school we have continued to focus on mental health and wellbeing, ensuring our pupils have the support they need to talk about any worries and anxieties they may be experiencing. Our ELSA team are on hand to support those children who may need them (and they have bubbles!)



We also have a budding author in school! One of our Year 6 children has written her very own book! "I wrote a book called 'Escaping Enchantia'. It is about a group of children that enter a magical world and have to find a way out as they door they entered through had vanished! I decided to write this book as I want to be an author. I loved coming up with the ideas as I got to get creative. I based my characters on children in our class, my best friends and my dog. I loved meeting all the characters and getting to know them as

I continued to write my story. I'm planning on writing a sequel. If anyone has any suggestions, let me know!"

## CRANBURY COLLEGE

Key Stage 4 and 5 have been busy with cooking, carpentry and art.



## HAMILTON SCHOOL

Work at the new Hamilton school is making good progress. We are pleased that work is now in full swing at our new site.



Amazing spray painting from Year 7 and 8

## MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE

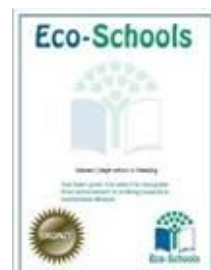
We have been delighted to re-open our school over the last few weeks. Of particular note and success have been our extracurricular clubs with great numbers signing up for our sports clubs and academic enrichment. For example, our Key Stage Three Maths Pi-rate club has seen over 20 students each week code cracking and number crunching after school each Wednesday whilst in the next room our Year 11 A-Level Maths club have been balancing equations and deciphering algebraic notation. We've also had a big push on re-launching our House system with an inter house quiz during the final week of term and double house points in the week before. In other words, we've been trying to make school seem normal again.

We are also really looking forward to next term. We have 120 saplings to plant on our school field following a generous donation by the Woodland Trust. This coincides with the launch of our Eco Club which we're really excited about. Along with this we can't wait to see how our Year 11s get on in their final assessments. They have been excellent since their return, working hard and understanding that the next few weeks will really make a difference to their results.

Based on the feedback of our recent Parent Forum on Tuesday 30 March when we shared our plans for the next few months in supporting the students back into school considering their well-being, academic progress and curricular knowledge we feel that MECE and all its stakeholders are moving in the right direction after such a difficult year.

## MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL IN READING

- Congratulations to Year 11 students who have all achieved their Level 1 ASDAN Certificate in Personal Effectiveness
- Eco-Schools Bronze award achieved, recognising the review and action planning that the student council Eco-committee have been working on: 3 key areas: reduce waste, eliminate litter, improve biodiversity
- Freeze Screen Friday: A great day for activities that DID NOT rely on computer screens - including hot chocolate with Mr Johnson!
- PE dept have been active in encouraging student fitness (staff as well!) through a number of interactive activities
- Year 11 students have been very focussed and working hard to take their PPE assessments
- We had a special focus on national careers week. We have also been supporting students to engage in employability activities during lock down
- Upon our return to full face to face teaching, staff and students enthusiastically engaged in Double House points week!
- Continued to welcome (albeit remotely) guest speakers into school to support learning and our assembly programme
- “Frost Bites” has encouraged many students to engage in healthy cooking and food preparation at home during lockdown



## MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL

The children are all back in school **#TeamMaidenErlegh are back!**

- Year 11 Pastoral Day – all students offered an interview with feedback from an external employer? Brilliant work by the careers team
- Celebration of Neurodiversity Week
- Year 10, 11 and 13 assessments completed
- Year 11 PE being offered to support students with GCSE PE Practical Work
- Homework Club back up and running! (Maybe this isn't good news for the Foundation students!!)
- Gold Status Anti Bullying Award
- Year 11 Mock interviews all held virtually!

