



ThePulse

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

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FROM THE HEADTEACHER



We are half way through the summer term....although this year the weather doesn't seem to have realised this!

Never mind. Whilst it may be dull and dreary outside, our school building houses an optimistic and vibrant community, determined to move beyond the challenges of this year towards a bright and sunny future! Teachers are teaching, staff are supporting and, as a result, our students are flourishing. We must be optimistic for the future. Our students are so resilient and have such a positive outlook. Many of them are working incredibly hard to close any learning gaps that emerged during the lockdown and they are all being supported through our catch up programme and strategy.

The end of this half term sees our year 11 students "graduating" from school. It really doesn't seem that long ago when this year group started the school, initially for half a term in temporary accommodation and then moving into the brand new building in December 2016. They have contributed so much to our school and its development over the past five years and we wish them every success in the future as they move on to further education, training and employment.

This group of heroic students have been working so hard, through their summer assessments, to produce their very best work and our staff have been going "above and beyond" to tirelessly support them. Once

again, this year sees a very different approach to examinations and assessments but we believe the approach we are taking to teacher assessed grading is robust, fair and will ensure that students are not penalised, especially given the extraordinary year that they have had.

Meanwhile, we have been able to reboot our extra-curricular programme and to offer that wider positive experience of being a part of the school community – so missed during the last year. More clubs and activities will be added in the last weeks of the school year and we encourage all students to get involved and make the most of the opportunities on offer

After the half term break (and some rest), we look forward to once again ensuring that our students benefit from the best possible educational experience with their teachers (our very best resource) in front of them – teaching and challenging, enlightening and supporting so that each student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Do enjoy this edition of the pulse, have a great term break and we look forward to seeing students return on Monday 7 June – hopefully along with some warm weather!

Mr Johnson

CALENDAR

21 - 25 June	Year 7 Assessment Week
21 - 22 June	Year 10 Work Experience
23 June	Year 9 Progress Meeting
30 June	Year 6 Transition Day
1 July	Staff Professional Development Day (school closed for students)
19 July	Sports Day

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST ROTTERDAM 2021

This term we looked at the French and Spanish entries to the wonderful competition that is...EUROVISION!

Students had the opportunity to listen to **Barbara Pravi - "Voilà"** and **Blas Cantó - "Voy A Quedarme"**. Give them a listen and see which one you would vote for!

The MFL Team



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

Junior Maths Challenge

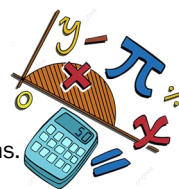
Students in Year 7 and 8 set 1 Maths had the opportunity to demonstrate their mathematical prowess this term by taking part in the National Junior Maths Challenge.

The Junior Mathematical Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic

mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The highest performers will receive either, Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificates, with the top 2000 very highest performer invited to take part in the Junior Olympiad. We are confident that our students have performed well and wish them luck with their results.

Miss Hind



Year 7



Year 7: What is our brand? As a year group we have been looking at our reputation or our “brand” around the school, and in the community. We want to focus on presenting the positive image of Year 7 being kind. A big part of this has been working on our “MER challenge” throughout this month.

Teachers have been looking out for opportunities to award students the “MER Way” house point when they have shown kindness to our community. Random acts of kindness have been happening all over the school thanks to Year 7. It has been a real pleasure to see our students looking for opportunities to care for others, help with homework or simply open the doors for staff and students on their way to lessons! Keep up the good work!

Mr Cameron

Year 11

This term has been a very busy time for the students full of hard work and revision. Students have been attending the revision corridor session this half term in preparation for their summer assessments. Students have been able to further their knowledge in a range of topics across the different subject to enable them succeed in their summer assessments.

The students have been completing their summer assessments this term as the final piece of evidence for their Centre Assessed Grade. The students have been brilliant in completing these and should be proud of their efforts in a tough time for all!

With the end of the journey on the horizon the Year 11 students have got exciting events to look forward to. The inaugural Maiden Erlegh in Reading School Graduation is taking place on the 27th May and is a chance for the school and students to celebrate their time at secondary school. Alongside this, the highly anticipated Maiden Erlegh School in Reading Prom is coming up in July and will be a fantastic celebration of the students who fully deserve a party following all their efforts this year. We are really looking forward to celebrating the student's successes!

Mr Bandy



Delicious Results



Year 9

Chocolate Easter Tart

My year 9 Food Preparation and Nutrition class did a fantastic job in making delicious Chocolate Easter Tarts during their practical lesson. They were extremely creative in choosing their own design and chocolate ingredients for decoration. It was definitely a technical challenge with lots of steps and instructions. However, the students were enormously successful.

Miss Frost



Carrot Cake

My Year 9 Food Technology class came out on top when it came to making the ever favourite 'Carrot Cake'. The students were very successful in carrying out various technical skills and techniques, including the use of the electric whisk to get the perfect carrot cake consistency. Some students even went the extra mile by making a delicious icing to top their cake, which added extra colour and sweetness.

Miss Frost



Year 8

Pasties

Throughout the week beginning 26th April, Year 8 have worked very hard making delicious pasties. The students were given the task of choosing their own tasty pasty fillings which included a variety of different vegetables and meats. The students also learned about the benefits of using an egg wash, to give their pasties that attractive golden glaze colour.

Miss Frost



Delicious Results (cont.)

Year 10

NEA Exam Practise

This term the Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition class have been busy practising for their NEA exam, which they will carry out next year. The students were tasked to research, prepare and cook 4 dishes which could be served on a themed menu in a restaurant to promote the cuisine of a specific country or region.

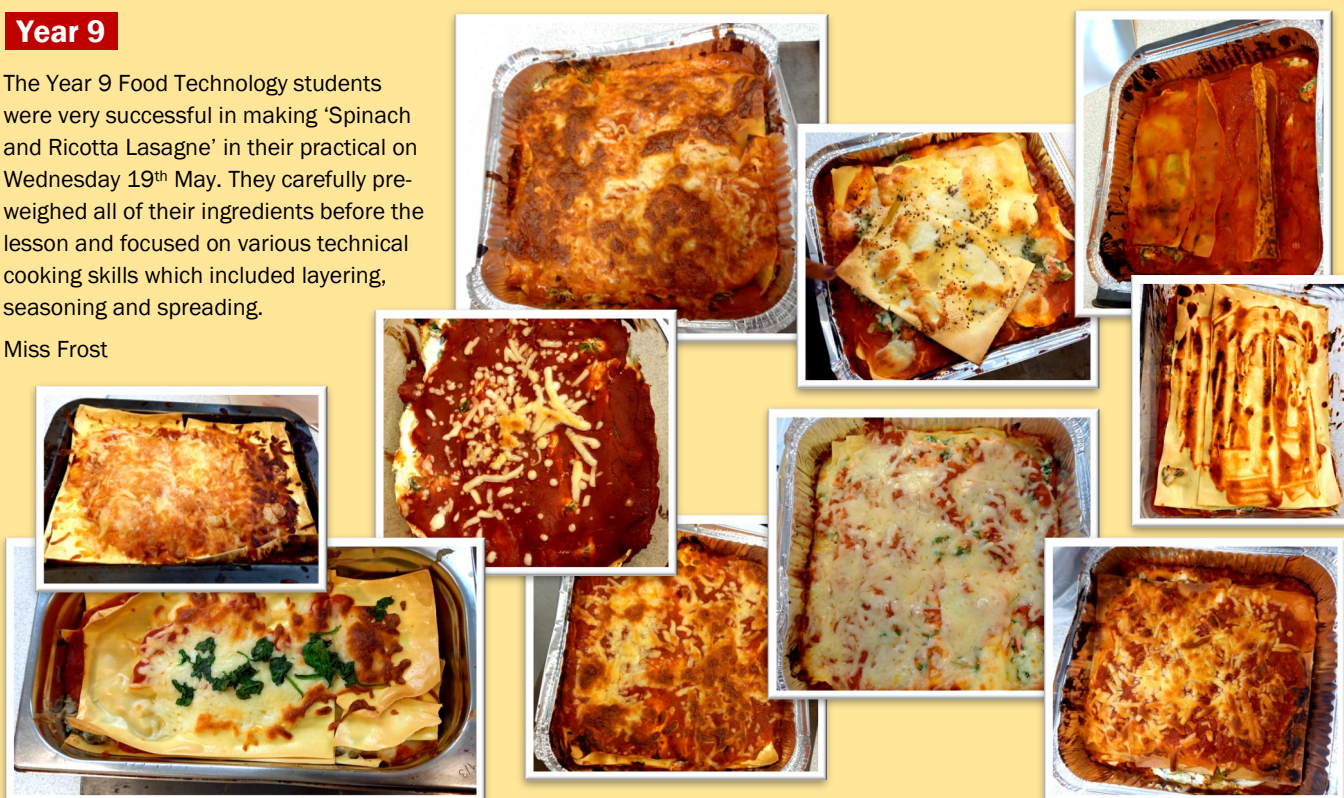
Over the last few weeks, the students have been working very hard demonstrating their superb cooking techniques and skills using their knowledge and imagination. The students have showcased their dishes excellently which clearly represented their chosen country or origin, examples included America, Pakistan, Tunisia and Spain. Miss Frost



Year 9

The Year 9 Food Technology students were very successful in making 'Spinach and Ricotta Lasagne' in their practical on Wednesday 19th May. They carefully pre-weighed all of their ingredients before the lesson and focused on various technical cooking skills which included layering, seasoning and spreading.

Miss Frost



Cultural Diversity Week

Thanks to the canteen we were able to sample a variety of different foods this week. The school council also created informative PowerPoints on different countries which were shared during tutor and lesson time. Students also learnt about local art, music and drama that contributes to our cultural identity. *Miss Pepper*

Celebrating Cultural Diversity

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

WEEK

Monday: Lamb and apricot tagine with cous cous (North Africa - Morocco)

Thursday: Mexican chicken and black bean wrap with rice (The Americas)

Tuesday: Beef goulash with rice (Hungary)

Friday: Greek Feta filo pastry with diced potatoes (Greece)

Wednesday: Singapore veg noodles with a spring roll (Singapore)

May 17th - May 21st

Ecosystems

Year 7 and Year 8 have been exploring ecosystems this half term and got creative to design their own rainforest fauna and flora. Their animals and plants had to be adapted to suit the conditions of the rainforest and the students had to explain these adaptations and compare them to existing species. *Mr Tomsett*

Explanations:
Every time a animal touches a leaf, the leaf would change the colour to the animals colour. In the animals world (insects) would be more safe and more hard to find a leaf.

This is the (flower) plant. This plant is very rare and only been seen once. It's known for its petals. The three colours represent three different nutrients. Its one of the most healthiest flowers anyone could absorb. One of the highest recommendations for cures for humans. The yellow petals are used for protein, which is good for body development. The orange petals are used for water. The petals are much more heavier than the others. As they grow, have the red petals which carry minerals. They need this - to stay hydrated without water and serve as structural carrier constituents of Sept. tissues. It's usually found on the canopy and on the side of trees up if you find any petals on the floor would be very rare and you'd be very lucky.

This plant can take over 6 months to regrow which is good for the environment.

Tree Bark - Bush Vine

My rainforest plant design

Colorful for pollination

Large leaves for photosynthesis

Long Stern which is long enough for absorbing sunlight

2 days to carry nutrients

Cultural Identity

As part of our Cultural Diversity Week students were allowed to wear an accessory that is part of their cultural identity.



Engineering Scholarship



An Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is the most esteemed scholarship of its type in the UK, designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams and change the world as a future leader in engineering.

Samuel in Year 11 was entered for the scholarship and was selected from over 600 students nationally to the final interview stage which was held online.

The Scholarships are awarded to hard-working 16 year old students through a rigorous selection process, supporting them through their A levels or equivalent qualifications.

Every Scholarship is sponsored by a commercial company, trade association, university, professional institution, armed service, government organisation, worshipful company, charitable trust or personal donor. This means that support is offered in various different ways, for example, valuable hands-on work experience, support for your curriculum project and a personal mentor who can help you with aspects of your studies and career planning.



Samuel was entered for the scholarship process because of his hard work and dedication towards his STEAM projects and in Design Technology. He has reached the finals of TeenTech National STEAM Competition on two occasions and contributed to the school achieving a Gold Innovation Centre award. He has a particular interest in aeronautical engineering and the use of drones to gather data and monitor weather conditions and CO2 concentration as explained in his 'Red Kite' project.

After a rigorous online interview in May with topics ranging from cuckoo clocks to data corruption detection. Samuel will have to wait until September to hear whether he has been successful in his application for the Scholarship.

Successful candidates receive £600 as part of the Scholarship. They can use this funding to support the purchase of components and materials to complete personal technical projects or enhance curriculum projects.

Mr Bradley is keen to encourage more students to get involved in STEAM activities and will be running TeenTech again from September and hopefully encourage more students to get involved.

We wish Samuel all the best in his application.

Mr Bradley

Year 10



Well this half term has flown by! The summer half terms are always busy ones, and this year is no different!

This term year 10 students had the opportunity to apply for the Senior Student Leadership positions, including head boy and head girl. I truly enjoyed reading through all of the applications received and hearing about all the extra-curricular activities that students are involved in outside of school, and their brilliant ideas for the future! At the time of writing this article we had not yet completed the interviews for these positions; they will be held on Thursday 20 May and I am really looking forward to interviewing the students and hearing what they have to say. I know it is going to be an incredibly difficult decision to select the students for the roles. This was just another way that Year 10 have shown how brilliant they are, and made me incredibly proud!

This half term has also been all about preparing for the upcoming PPEs. Year 10 students will have these exams immediately after half term (7 – 15 June) and so I wanted to make the

students aware of these as early as I could. This was so that students can prepare themselves early, and build in their revision. I want the students to take these upcoming exams as a practice for their upcoming GCSEs and to take them as seriously as these will be, so that they can help to prepare for the expectations of the formal GCSEs. This is something that I know Year 10 will rise to the challenge of. For those trying to complete revision at home remember there are lots of resources out there to help you. Just some of these include GCSEPod and the "subject advice" document that I shared on the Year 10 Support Google Classroom towards the start of the term. Remember to also use the tips shared during tutor times.

We also had our Year 10 Progress Meetings on 6 May and I would like to thank all parents for their taking the time to meet the teachers to support the students, I hope these were all useful meetings for you.

Next half term will be just as busy as Year 10 finish their final term before entering Year 11, and I am looking forward to seeing them continue to rise to any challenges they face.

Miss Davies



Y11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition NEA2

Final Practical Assessment

As part of the Y11 NEA2 – Food Preparation Assignment (coursework) students are expected to demonstrate their practical skills in a final 3 hour practical assessment. They are given an assignment task (set by AQA, see below) and for the practical element they need to showcase two final dishes with accompaniments, considering preparation, cooking and overall presentation skills. It was a busy two days of cooking and all the students gave it their very best. Well done Y11.

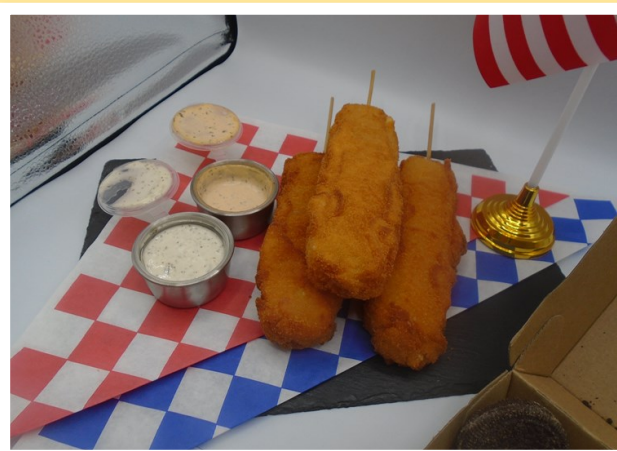
The Assignment Tasks this year were:-

- Plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes that are based on International Street Food. Present two dishes

- Plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes that provide a good source of iron in the diet. Present two dishes
- Plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes that meet the nutritional needs of the elderly (65+ years). Present two dishes

Which brief would you have chosen and what dishes would have considered?

Here are Y11 dish choices.....



Paul Hannaford

On May 25th, we welcomed Paul Hannaford to school to speak to our students about the dangers of drugs, knife crime and gang activity. Paul gave a candid and harrowing account of the impact of drugs and crime on his own life from a very young age. He spoke honestly about the effects this had on his physical and mental health, the damage he caused to friends and family and the immense danger in which he put himself. He explained how he escaped this world, but of the lasting damage caused by his choices. Whilst sometimes difficult to hear, students appreciated Paul's story and have much to consider in terms of their own choices. Find out more about Paul's work [here](#).

Mr Johnson



TACKLING DRUGS CHANGING LIVES



Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are excited that as national COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift, we have been able to restart some of our extra-curricular clubs.

Initially, the programme of activities on offer is limited so that we can trial the running of clubs with some necessary restrictions.

As there will be a maximum number of places available at each club, students need to sign-up with the teacher running

the club at least one day beforehand rather than simply turning up on that afternoon.

Please do encourage your child to get involved. Taking part in clubs is a great way for students to develop their character, confidence and gain vital transferrable skills.

We have a good range of activities available to begin with and more are set to follow before the end of the school year.



The clubs currently running are:

Year 10 Touch Rugby	Miss Phillips
Creative Writing Club	Mrs Newman
Year 7-10 Boys Cricket	Mr Hood, Mr Bandy & Mr Galvin
Invitational Music Club	Mr Butchers
Year 7 & 8 Athletics Club	Mrs Roberts, Miss Phillips, Mr Bandy & Mr Galvin
Arabic Language Club	Mrs Kaci
Year 7 & 8 Girls Rounders	Mrs Roberts
Year 7 Singing Club	Mr Butchers
Boxing Club	Mr Galvin

If your child would like to attend a club, they should see the teacher for details and to sign up.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are delighted to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate 39 of our Year 9 students, who have recently embarked on their journey towards achieving their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. The DofE Award is a world-renowned programme, highly respected by colleges, universities and employers. Our Year 9 students have taken it upon themselves to make the best use of their free time, acquiring new skills, self-confidence and a sense of purpose.

This term the students have started their participation in a range of exciting

activities, exploring new challenges, volunteering to help out in the community, and developing their physical fitness. The students have shown a real sense of leadership and individual responsibility over the past few weeks, working in small teams to plan their expedition. We are truly proud of the students involved and look forward to watching their DofE journey unfold, as they further develop into responsible, caring and well-rounded individuals.

Mr Galvin



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Year 11 Graduation



Yesterday we said goodbye to our Year 11 students. The graduation ceremony was full of laughter, reflection and some happy tears. It was a fantastic day of celebration and the students had the opportunity to say goodbye to each other and to staff. We wish them all the best for their future and next step of education. We are very much looking forward to partying at the prom!

Mr Bandy



Silver Programme + Gold Programme



The Silver and Gold Programme, our programmes for the higher ability students, have been online since the turn of the year, utilising dedicated Google Classroom groups. Student have been involved in a variety of tasks: exploring TED talks and lessons; learning from mathematics podcasts; entering writing competitions; and attending virtual Oxbridge information evenings.

Now that we are able to offer sessions in school there will be two opportunities after half term.

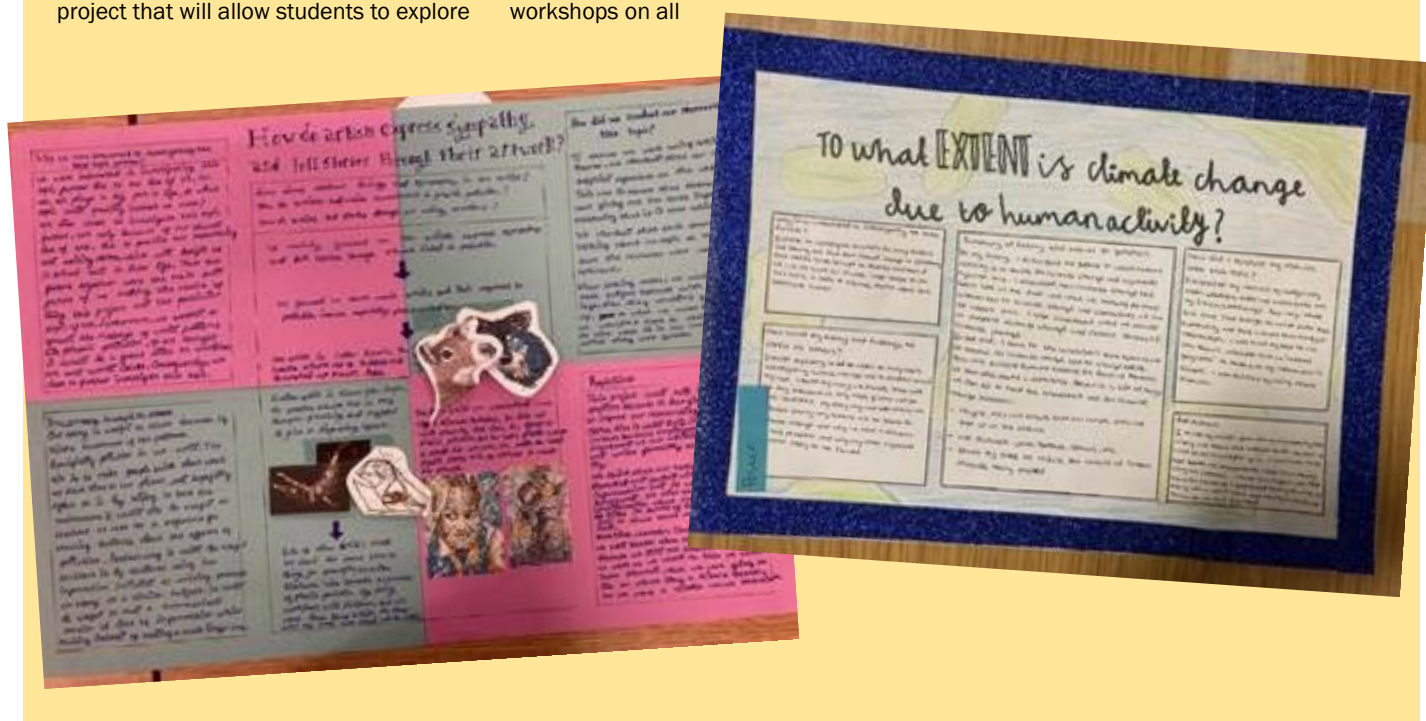
Year 7 and Year 8 Silver Programme, and Year 9 Gold programme students will be able to apply to take part in the Maiden Erlegh Independence Project, which is an independent research-based project that will allow students to explore

a topic of their choice. More information will be advertised in due course. However, for now, here are some of the best entries at the presentation event from last year's edition at Maiden Erlegh School.

Year 10 Gold Programme students will be invited to a series of 30 minute workshops on all

aspects of applying and studying at university to allow them to begin to assess their options for further study in the future. These will commence on Thursday 24th June and will run weekly until the end of term.

Mr Tomsett



DREAM

DETERMINATION IN ALL WE DO
RESPECT FOR OTHERS
EXCELLENCE IN OUR WORK
ATTITUDE FOR SUCCESS
MATURITY IN OUR CHOICES

Facilities Hire

Our fantastic school facilities are available for hire to the general public. For information on lettings for the next academic year please contact the school.

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

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