



The Pulse

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All



Maiden Erlegh School | 81 Crescent Road | Reading RG31 5SL | T. 0118 966 8065 | www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk | @MESReading

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our festive edition of The Pulse... and it really is a bumper edition!

Our school has always been a place of opportunity and I have been delighted at the range of initiatives, extra-curricular activities and special events which we have been able to offer our students over the last term. This has been particularly important as we return to normal school life after the disruptions of the last two years. For me, particular highlights are those opportunities where the whole community has come together, for example our hugely successful cultural diversity day – a time of real celebration, exploration and opportunity to learn from one another.

I am delighted to report that across the school, our staff have been delivering fantastic lessons and as a result students have made great progress in acquiring knowledge and developing skills for the future. As ever, staff have also been careful to identify any particular support or intervention that may be required by some students. This goes hand in hand with the compassionate support on offer from our pastoral and inclusion teams so that students feel happy in school and get advice and help when they need it.

From the newest members of our community in year 7 (who have made a flying start!) to the year 11s who are moving towards their final examinations in 2022, the school community has been focussed on our core purpose: delivering great

education and care for our students. That, of course, that wouldn't happen without the skills, expertise and sheer hard work of our staff team who have been so committed during a term where we have still experienced some COVID related disruption.

So, despite the headlines, we have good reasons for optimism for 2022 and the continued success of our school. Thank you for the part that YOU have played in supporting us and we look forward to that partnership continuing.

The end of the school term regrettably brings some staff farewells. Miss Roth, Mr Murphy, Mrs Saxena and Mrs Wills will all be leaving the school at the end of December. They will be greatly missed by the staff team and students alike, and we thank them for their contribution to the development of our school and to supporting our students with care and compassion. Each of them has left a huge impression and we wish them well as they begin new chapters in their professional lives. We also wish all the best to Ms Newman who starts her maternity leave in January.

Finally, may I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a very happy new year.

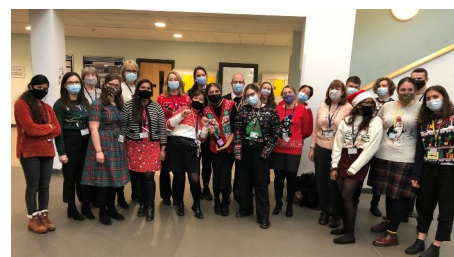


CALENDAR

18 December - 04 January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
11 January	Yr 9 ASDAN – Alfred Sutton Visit
17 January	Yr 10 Theatre Trip
20 January	Yr 11 Progress Meeting
27 January	Yr 8 Options Evening
09 February	Yr 8 Progress Meeting
11 February	CPD Conference Day (School closed)

Festive Jumper Day

On Friday 10th December, we celebrated festive jumper day where we managed to raise over £180 for charity. It was great to see so many pupils getting involved and after long deliberation, the Senior Student Leadership group chose their podium places. Lots of staff members got stuck in too with Mrs Rajput taking the top spot, followed by Mr Baylis and Miss Tyler in 3rd.





So you want to be a doctor?



This term we have started a weekly afterschool club looking at all things related to medicine. So far we have had a brilliant time discovering all aspects of the medical world. We have:

- started work on our research for entries for the national StepintotheNHS competition
- had a virtual visit from the British Red Cross who have delivered a workshop on basic first aid
- had a dissection demo session focusing on the lungs, heart and liver
- welcomed our first guest speaker from the NHS via a zoom call, who spoke to us about her role within biomedical science.
- looked at focusing microscopes and examining slides under our light microscopes.



We are looking forward to welcoming more guest speakers and enjoying a range of different activities in the weeks to come! Wednesdays 3:10 in room 216

Mrs Rogeon



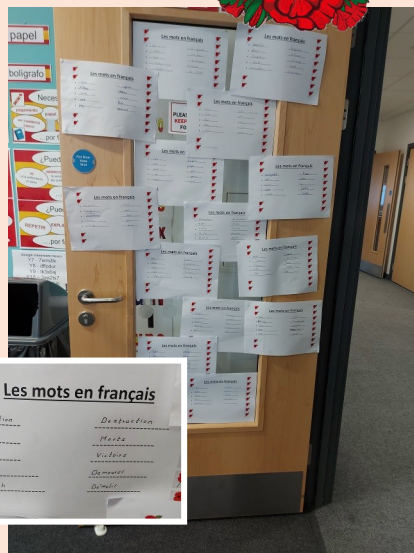
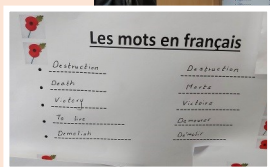
Celebrating peace and hope!



What fantastic work from the French Year 7 and Year 8 classes commemorating the end of the First World War on the 11th November .

Our French students had to reflect on what "war" could mean to them and how their generation is lucky to have not experienced such a traumatic time. They then brainstormed key words such as "Victory" "Peace" "Never again" "Hope" in French and English and created a door display in our MFL department .

Well done to our French students!
M. Bourienne



Year 11

One more half term down...This year is flying by! This has been another busy half term filled with revision corridors, PPEs, sixth form assemblies and visitors – all things around GCSE preparation and post-16 destinations.

This year is very busy for year 11 and I remain incredibly proud of how well the majority of the year group are conducting themselves and engaging with their lessons. After Christmas we continue the journey towards GCSEs: there will be the Year 11 Parents' Meeting, a great opportunity to speak with teachers regarding progress, and revision corridors to help prepare for PPE2. I am also aware of lots of students making applications for their post-16 destinations and this will ramp up further over the next half term. As I mentioned earlier, this year is very busy for the students and I hope that they take a well-earned rest over the Christmas break, coming back ready to continue our journey!

Miss Davies



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





The Giving Tree



Over the past week, we have been collecting donations of non-perishable goods to pass onto Readfood – Reading's foodbank. The items have been collected under the tree in reception and we will be delivering all of the goods to the foodbank during the week. Thank you very much for all of the support!

Harry Potter Trip

On a crisp November morning, 50 students from year 7 and 8 were given the exciting opportunity to visit Hogwarts and all of the other magical sites at Warner Bros Studio Tours London. The students got to fly on broomsticks and see the Hogwarts Express, Diagon Alley topped off with the Hogwarts Castle...there was even the dragon in Gringotts!

The students were brilliant representatives of the school and this was



an excellent opportunity for them to see how the movies were brought to life. It combined a number of different subjects; Maths, Technology and English to name just a few, and showed how these subjects can be brought to real-world applications.



It has become a bit of a tradition for Maiden Erlegh School in Reading students to visit the tour, and I can't wait to take students next year!

Mis Davies



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@maidenerleghtrust.org to request this funding via your child's Pupil Premium Champion.

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





Food Technology

Pasta Medley

Year 10 food technology students did a fantastic job at making a 'Roasted Vegetable and Pasta Medley'. It was a very technically demanding practical which involved lots of multi-tasking, however, the students excelled.'

Miss Frost



Macaroni Cheese

Year 8 worked extremely hard with great focus in making the ever favourite 'Macaroni Cheese'. It was a demanding practical where the students had to concentrate on making the cheese sauce from scratch, alongside making sure their pasta was cooked properly to *al dente*. It was a great success overall and I am very proud of their achievements.

Miss Frost

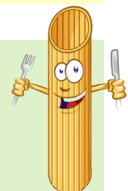


Pasta Salad in a Jar

Year 7 were challenged in a recent food practical lesson to create a 'PASTA SALAD IN A JAR', with the objective of containing all 5 sections of the Eatwell Guide (Carbohydrates, Fats, Dairy, Proteins and Fruits & Vegetables) – the Government's Guidance for a healthy

and balanced diet. The students chose their ingredients well and also incorporated a variety of fantastic textures, flavours and vibrant colours, which looked brilliant in their jars.

Miss Frost





Food Technology

Pasta Making

Year 8 food technology students were set the challenge of making fresh pasta from scratch using a pasta making machine. The students began by making a dough from flour and egg. They then flattened their dough and passed it through the pasta machine whilst regularly dusting the machine with a flour dredger to prevent it from sticking. The students continued to roll the pasta through the pasta machine, turning the handle whilst supporting the dough as it gradually became thinner, into their chosen type of pasta. The students finished the dish by cooking the pasta for a few minutes and adding in a rich tomato-based sauce. Exquisitely done!

Miss Frost



FOOD DEPARTMENT

Termly Food Journal – September to December

It has been a busy time in the Food Department since September in KS3 Food Technology (Y7 and Y8) and KS4 GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition (Y9, Y10 and Y11). Mrs McCarthy and Miss Frost have been delighted with the wonderful, creative practical work the students have produced.

Year 7: Food Technology

This year group has had opportunities to explore and experience how to work in the food room. The main focusses have been on hygiene and safety practices as well as understanding how to use a range of unit equipment. For some students this has been an extremely new experience so well done on embracing the need for team work.

The practical opportunities have included:

- Knife skills challenge – carrot/potato (Bridge and claw technique)
 - Sensory taste testing – coleslaw
 - Pasta salad in a Jar – using the hob, vegetable preparation, presentation
 - Chicken nuggets – using the oven, meat preparation, using a meat probe
- Next term, look forward to developing



your practical skills in making chicken/vegetable curry, savoury mince, pizza pin wheels and finally a free choice dish using pasta.

Year 8: Food Technology

This year group has had to wait a whole year to enjoy the opportunities to explore and experience how to work hygienically and safely in the food room. The main focusses have been on developing key practical skills and using more specialist unit equipment. All students have been extremely enthusiastically working as a team and demonstrating a range of complex practical skills.

The practical opportunities have included:

- Knife skills challenge – carrot/potato (Bridge and claw technique)
- Southern style chicken and sweet potato wedges – using the oven, meat and vegetable preparation, using a meat probe, flavours and textures



- Macaroni cheese – using the hob, making a roux sauce, cooking pasta, presentation/garnish a dish



- Making fresh pasta – using the pasta machine, team work, cooking fresh pasta, combining with tomato sauce to create a one portion meal.



Next term, we look forward to developing your practical skills in making pasties, savoury mince, a free choice dish using mince or Quorn mince.





Remembrance Event



Combined Cadet Force

Cadets from MER participated alongside those from UTC in a joint Remembrance event on 11th November in memory of those members of the Armed Forces who have given their lives for our freedoms and democracy. It included a focus on those from the Reading area who have lost their lives, and also a reading of the poem Field of Tears by 'RAF Tony' read by MER student Hasini.

Field of Tears by "RAF Tony"

On the wind the petal blow
Red of blood spilt long ago
Born were they then to be free
Now white the cross for all to see.
Screams from trenches have long gone
The rusting wire in the setting sun
A name and number and badge of pride
That the reminder of all who died.
Poppy red in fields of tears
Young men died all had fears
No hero born but made by men
Remember all remember them.



Two MER cadets also had the opportunity to go indoor skydiving in nearby Basingstoke. Hasini and Dara joined NCOs and cadets from UTC and had a great time!

Year 8



Year 8 have had a great start to their second year at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. The students have been working hard in their lessons and this has been shown in their recent DCP1 progress grades with the majority of students on target in their subjects.

Year 8 students have been working together on improving their kindness to others in the school and the wider community. They have been engaged in a range of tasks to improve the language they use to ensure this is appropriate at all times. A number of the students got themselves fully involved in the recent Cultural Fair which was a huge success with students proud to show off their cultural backgrounds. Next term is a big one for the Year 8 students with the GCSE option process getting underway on the 11th January with Year 8 Assessments. I hope all students have a restful festive break and come back raring to go!

Mr Bandy

Careers Week 2

Between 6th December – 10th December we celebrated #careersweek2 where we looked at raising the awareness of the diverse range of possible destinations. Teachers shared a selection of career pathways and roles linked to each subject and the students have been discussing how their subjects can 'futureproof' their employability in a fast-changing world.



Alumni success!



ARKWRIGHT
ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS
part of The Smallpiece Trust



Congratulations to recent leaver Samuel who was successful in his application for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

The Smallpiece Trust announced that there were 1,297 applications for 2021 scholarships. The uncertainty surrounding Covid has had a big impact on their sponsors leading to fewer scholarships. 287 have been awarded so far this year, down from 305 in 2020 and 412 in 2019.

Samuel had to submit a detailed application and was selected for a rigorous online interview with industry and educational experts. He was successful in his application and has received sponsorship throughout his A Level studies from the Cyber Security company, Crowdstrike.

Samuel also won his category in the 2021 TeenTech Awards with his Red Kite project which was a tremendous achievement. He

has also returned to MER to receive his award from Mr Johnson and also to mentor some of our Year 7 TeenTech students.

If any students are interested in learning more about STEAM projects including TeenTech Awards, please contact me.

Mr Bradley





Year 7

Year 7- we made it to Christmas!

Yay! We leave 2021 a stronger and settled secondary school year group.

The next year will be important for us - as a year group we continue to establish ourselves within Maiden Erlegh School in Reading and have high expectations and strive for the best behaviour for learning. We know that as "Team Year 7" we can work together to ensure that learning is our number 1 priority.

With the new year approaching, what is your New Year resolution going to be?

As a year group our New Year resolutions are:

- To continue to settle into a new school
- To lead the way in positive behaviour for learning
- To be the very best we can be



I wish you all a very restful, fun filled and relaxing Christmas holidays and I am very excited to see what 2022 brings for us!

Miss Hancock

Our Young Interpreters become language teachers for the day!



During Cultural Diversity Day on 25th November, our Young Interpreters (Elicia, Kinza, Jennifer, Oskar, Rahaf, Andreea, Serah, Sara, Srilakshmi and Oskar) used their fantastic language skills to become language teachers for the morning. They worked really hard with the support of the Modern Languages Department to prepare language and cultural lessons and deliver them to their classmates in year 7, 8 and 9. Our pupils learnt Swahili, Arabic, Polish, Malayalam, Hindi and Romanian. They also immersed themselves into the culture and traditions from the places where the



languages are spoken and listened to some tunes in the foreign languages.

Year 9

It was a great pleasure to see so many Year 9s take part in Cultural Day and help make it so amazing. Special thanks to those students who volunteered to lead sessions teaching students an introduction to their native language.

The first set of DCPs are out for the year group and I encourage parents and students to take some time to reflect on the grades, ready to build upon them come January.

Coming up in January we have Think

Ahead Day which ties in nicely with the theme of careers and destinations which will be explored in the New Year. Well done to the majority of the year group who have handled the tumultuous time we have had in school, with teachers being ill and the increased cover lessons, with such maturity. The resilience in the year group is something I'm very proud of. All that's left to say is have a great break, take the time to be with family and friends and I will see you in the New Year.

Mr Rabin



Our Young Interpreters were absolute superstars, and both they and their students left the classrooms buzzing with how much they had learnt. Rahaf from year 11 said: "I put a lot of hard work into my Arabic presentation and in the end, it was worth it because everyone learned from it and enjoyed it." Tiffany from year 11, who delivered her presentation along with Elicia, said: "It was a great experience to be in the place of a teacher, and to also get to teach about my culture with my partner, Elicia, but having everyone participate so well was the biggest success of the day."

The Modern Foreign Languages Department



Cultural Diversity Day

On the 24th November we were very excited for our very first Cultural Diversity Day. Students were off timetable learning about different cultures in Humanities, the Arts, Languages & social aspects .

Students had the opportunity to learn lots about the different cultures:



The **ART** session involved students creating a self portrait of themselves using different materials to describe their identity.

The **HUMANITIES** session was to raise awareness of the different cultural heritage within the school. Year 7 and 8 looked at religion, Year 9 and 10 looked at the positive impact of the Windrush migrants on life and culture in the UK.

Year 11 looked at what 'British' actually means in terms of historical migration and 'British' DNA.

The **SOCIAL** session was an interhouse quiz about different sports in different cultures.

The **LANGUAGES** session was run by our young interpreters. This was a student taught session about their home language.

In the afternoon we had our first cultural fair. This was incredible! Over 100 students put together stalls to show off their culture. The buzz in the sports hall was amazing. Students were so proud to show off who they were, what was special about their culture and items that were linked to their culture.

For our first cultural day, it was a great experience. Students loved learning about different cultures and there was a great atmosphere in the school.

Miss Hancock





ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FACILITIES TO HIRE?

We welcome enquiries about the private use of our facilities. If you would like to come and see what facilities we have to offer, please arrange a visit via Reception or contact us by emailing merlettings@maidenerleghtrust.org.

A full list of our facilities and hire charges can be found on our website or by contacting our school Business Manager.



SPORTS HALL – NETBALL COURTS – TENNIS COURTS – DANCE STUDIO –
MUSIC STUDIO – MAIN SCHOOL HALL – DINING AREA – ATRIUM – MULTI USE
GAMES AREA (MUGA) – CLASSROOMS – MEETING ROOMS

 **81 CRESCENT ROAD, READING, RG1 5SL**



0118 966 8065



merlettings@maidenerleghtrust.org



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING



Reading model climate

Three of our students took part in the Reading Climate Conference on Wednesday 10th November along with 5 other schools from the Reading area. The students had to represent a country attending the real COP26 conference in Edinburgh and our team represented the USA, a tough task given the previous administration's views on climate change! They debated superbly, holding their own against much older Sixth Form students and as a result were one of a small number of teams chosen for interview by the BBC for BBC South Today. As you can see from the photos below, our team was featured on the news!



There was also an opportunity to ask local stakeholders, such as council members and representatives from local businesses and charities, their views on both combating and adapting to climate change as a country, council area, school and on an individual level. This was a great way to end the conference as it got students (and staff!) thinking about how they could make a difference.



As usual our students did us proud and I look forward to taking more teams to the conference in 2022!

Mr Tomsett




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	
Autumn	1 November - 17 December 2021
Spring	5 January - 18 February 2022
	28 February - 8 April 2022



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Click [here](#) to find a list of after school clubs

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.