



ThePulse

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



The first half of the spring term has rushed by. Whilst the autumn term is the longest term, the spring term I think is the most intense. School has certainly been a busy place with lots of parents' evenings, data reports and the continued hard work of our students and teachers working together to progress learning and care. It has been a relief to start to remove some more of the COVID safety measures and extend even further our extra-curricular programme. School life feels more and more normal as the weeks progress. This edition of the Pulse gives an exciting flavour of what the school community has been up to. I hope you enjoy the read!

We now have confirmation that the exam season will run (with some adaptations) and we can get focused on preparing our year 10 and 11 students for their forthcoming qualifications. Year 11 are working very hard to ensure that they give themselves the best possible chance and I have been hugely impressed by their collective work ethic and positive attitudes. I have also been pleased that so many of our students have secure offers of places at a huge range of schools and colleges to continue their education journey.

Meanwhile, students have been working hard to rise to a challenge. The new Duke of Edinburgh cohort, Maths intermediate challenge,

Computational thinking challenge and the many and varied events of Think Ahead Day are all examples; the eagerness and commitment of our students to rising to challenge is very humbling and, for staff very fulfilling.

Finally, parents will have received a letter from me about the impending appointment of a new Headteacher for the school (from September). Whilst I will be very sad to step away from the day to day running of the school, it provides a great opportunity for someone new to bring their ideas, their enthusiasm, energy and focus. I will keep you informed on the progress of the appointment process over the next few weeks and I will look forward to introducing them to you.

In the middle of this busy term, it is important to take rest and to recharge the batteries. So I wish all members of our community a good break over half term. Please remember that the school is closed on Monday 28th February for a staff training day. Students are back into school from Tuesday 1st March.



CALENDAR

HALF TERM	21 – 25 Feb
SCHOOL CLOSED	28 February
Year 7 Progress Meeting	03 March
Science Week Steam Fair	04 March
Year 9 Art & Photography Trip	22 & 23 March
Reward Events Week	28 March
Arts Event	31 March
Year 10 Progress Meeting	07 April



Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week 2022

Between 7-11th February, we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week here at Maiden Erleigh School in Reading.

Our activities included:

- Teachers showing videos about apprenticeships relating to their subjects.
- Daily videos of apprentices sharing their experience of being an apprentice – via Google Classroom.
- An apprenticeship quiz which will be completed during Tutor time
- The Maiden Erleigh Trust Virtual Apprenticeship Parent Information Evening on Monday 7 February 2022

If you would like to watch the videos which were shared with each year group, and also discover more information, you can find video and document links by scrolling here: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/>

Miss Ryan

Think Ahead Day 2022



On 19th January, the whole school came off timetable to participate in Think Ahead Day 2022. This meant year 7 were puzzling out mathematical problems – becoming human battleships as they navigated a minefield, and code-breaking to stretch their brains about ciphers and encryption. Year 8 students are in the process of choosing their option subjects for next year so for them, there were taster lessons to find out about Business Studies, Economics and Health and Social Care amongst others.

Year 9 got to grips with collaborative and 'trust' tasks in the sports hall, following up with how to research online effectively. Talks on apprenticeships took place for years 10 and 11, who also had sessions on thinking hard – year 10 – and how to be mindful – year 11 – during their forthcoming exams. The students really enjoyed the day, giving the apprenticeship talk ten out of ten. The staff worked really hard to organise the sessions outside their normal teaching subjects, but all agreed that sessions like this are essential for the rounded education we want students to experience at MER. Andy Johnson, head teacher said: *Think Ahead Day has always been an important highlight of the year and this year was no exception. Students across different year groups were able to take time out of their normal routines to consider the future and to develop some of those thinking and problem solving skills so vital for the future. A great day of creativity and exploration!*

Mrs Escott-New



A Christmas Carol

On Wednesday 15th December 50 Y10 and Y11 students went to Reading Rep theatre to see an adaptation of A Christmas Carol. Students enjoyed the updated version – based on Reading's Huntley and Palmers – and were mesmerised by the supernatural experience!! Thank you to everyone involved in organising and for those who came to help out.

Mrs Newman



TEEN WRITING GROUP

At Wokingham Library

JOIN IGNITING WRITING, WOKINGHAM LIBRARY'S TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Face to face sessions every Saturday
(except 2nd Saturday of the month and school holidays)

Session for Year 6-8 pupils, 9:45am to 11:15am

Session for Year 9-13 pupils, 11:45am to 1:15pm

The sessions are **FREE** and open to all year
6 to year 11 students

Online 'WRITE WITH AN AUTHOR' sessions
second Saturday of each month from
10:30am to 12noon

Online sessions will include:

- An author Q & A
- Fun writing activities
- Useful writing tips

All sessions need to be booked in advance.
To register, email libraries@Wokingham.gov.uk for parental permission form and for booking links



Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All



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

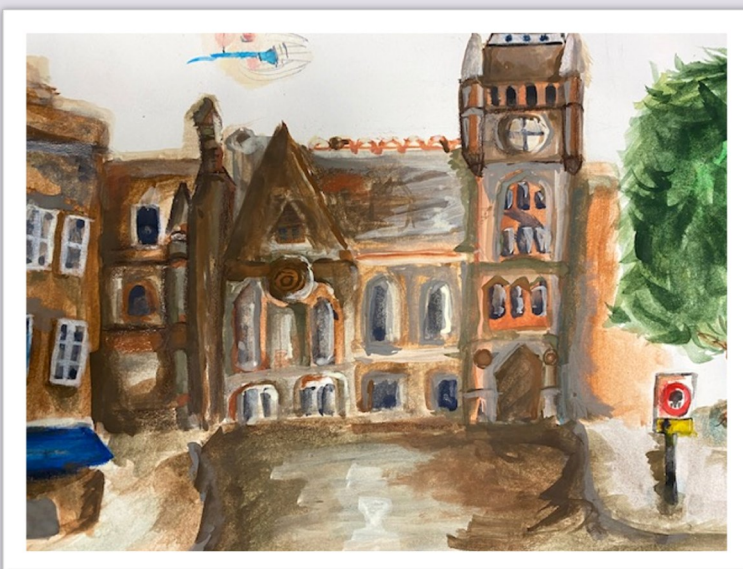
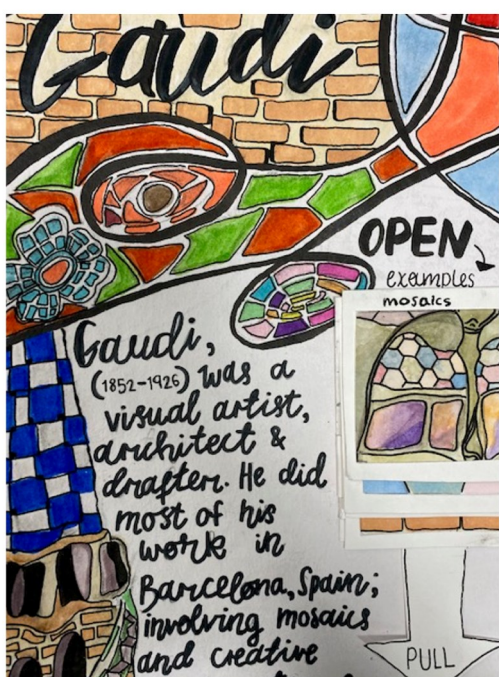
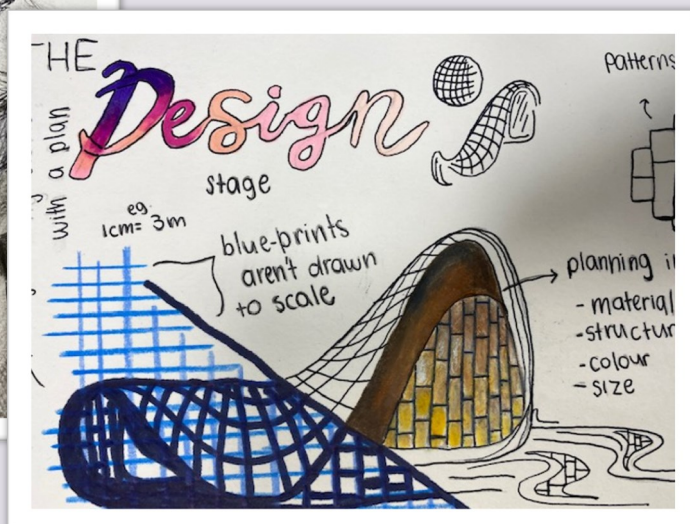


MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

Year 8 Art

We have been studying architecture in Year 8 for the last term. Students looked at the architecture of Gaudi and Hundertwasser before moving onto looking at contemporary architect Zaha Hadid. From this they designed and constructed their own wire models, which were inspired by natural forms, such as shells. The project ended with an assessment where students had to create a mixed media piece of art, inspired by architecture from around Reading. Please see images of some of the lovely work.

Miss Jordan



School Street

We are absolutely delighted that our school street project has finally been given the green light! From Monday 28th February, Crescent road will be closed to through traffic from 8.15 – 9.00am. Monday – Friday. This will hugely improve the safety of students arriving at school (and also those attending UTC and Alfred Sutton). We also have the option to extend the scheme and have an additional closure at the end of the school day – but for this to happen we require more volunteer marshals. Do get in contact if you feel you could assist.



Year 7

The New Year is a time to highlight the positives, reflect and set targets for the new year ahead. As Team Year 7 we do this every half term.

Since September I am so proud of the amount of house points Year 7 have been awarded.

TUTOR	HOUSE POINTS
7G1	10967
7G2	10883
7P1	10034
7P2	10643
7T1	10723
7T2	10918

A massive well done to everyone – we are doing so well!

As Team Year 7 we are getting lots of house points for getting the basics right - answering questions, good effort, uniform and equipment.

Our target for the next half term is to continue to be the very best we can be! Can we get even more house points?

You are making me very proud to be Head of Year 7 – we know we are the best and we are showing this day to day. Keep it up!

Miss Hancock

So you want to be a doctor?

The 'So you want to be a Doctor' club got off to a great start this year with a messy modelling experience! Students worked in small groups to follow the journey of food from mouth to anus, looking at the functions of the organs and enzymes involved in the digestive system.

As part of our focus on NHS careers, we have arranged a number of talks from professionals in the coming weeks. Last term we had talks from a cardiothoracic nurse, medical laboratory assistant, and mental health nurse. We combined these with other activities, including using microscopes and watching a video of an open heart surgery operation.



Upcoming professional guests via zoom include: a respiratory consultant, biomedical scientist in haematology and blood transfusion, podiatrist, paediatric intensive care nurse, GP and occupational therapist.

'So you want to be a Doctor' club
Every Wednesday
Room 216 at 3:10pm
with Mrs Rogeon

Bebras Computational Thinking



The results for 2021's Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge arrived at school just too late for the last edition of The Pulse. All students in Year 7 and Year 8 plus GCSE Computer Scientists were given certificates to take home before the end of term, so hopefully parents have seen these. There were numerous excellent scores, and lots of house points were awarded.

Three students in particular performed brilliantly, and were awarded 'Best in School' for their particular age group.

These are Jaspreet in Year 7, Ataberk in Year 8 and Yat Sing in Year 10, who all won a Golden Ticket and hot chocolate with the Head. I have put thousands of students through Bebras over the last 10 years and these were some of the very highest scores I have ever seen, testament to some of the outstanding students we have here at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading.

Mr Redrup –
 Strategic Lead for Computer Science

Food Technology

Festive Swiss Roll

Year 9 food technology students did a fantastic job in decorating a festive swiss roll using a variety of different techniques. The students got creative with writing icing, sprinkles, fondant and food colouring to really express their differing personalities and showcase their presentation skills.

Miss Frost



Pasties

Year 8 thoroughly enjoyed making pasties in a recent food technology practical lesson. The students had the choice to make either sweet or savoury pasties using their imaginations for a variety of different fillings. Examples of the sweet pasty fillings included marshmallows, chocolate and stewed apple. Examples of the savoury pasties included cheese, baked beans and mince. The students also worked hard on presentation and styling – a great effort all round!

Miss Frost



Year 11 GCSE NEA Exam

The year 11 Food Technology students have been working extremely hard preparing for their GCSE NEA Exam. They had the task of researching a chosen theme and deciding on 4 trial dishes they would like to make in preparation for their final assessment. The students had to consider the variety of different skills, techniques and presentation styles in order to showcase their final creations. I am very proud of all of their achievements.

Miss Frost



Pasties Year 9

Year 9 were successful in a recent practical making delicious pasties. The students chose their own fillings which included baked beans, cheese, potato and a variety of meats. It was a highly technical skill involving making the perfect dough from scratch and crimping.

Miss Frost



Butterfly Chicken Breast

Year 10 food technology students recently had the challenge of making 'Butterfly Chicken Breast'. It was a highly technical practical with the students having to carefully slice the chicken open in order for it to resemble the shape of a butterfly. The students then had to pummel the chicken with a rolling pin, creating an even thickness all over. The students then proceeded to coat the

chicken in a variety of different seasonings for flavour. Year 10 finished off the dish by frying the chicken in a pan, frequently checking the internal temperature with a meat probe, making sure it had a minimal internal temperature of 75 degrees.

Miss Frost



Savoury mince



Year 8 food technology students were recently set the challenge of researching their own unique recipe, with the only rule of it having to contain savoury mince. The students spent 2 weeks researching a vast array of recipes using the internet and recipe books for inspiration. The students finally came up with their own list of

ingredients, equipment and created a final time-plan in preparation. Overall, the practical lesson was an enormous success. I was extremely impressed by how the students came up with such original and creative recipes and how well they handled their time.

Well done year 8!

Miss Frost



Savoury Pizza Pinwheels

Year 7 food technology students did incredibly well in making delicious 'Savoury Pizza Pinwheels' in their final food practical lesson. The students demonstrated fantastic technical skills which included sieving; rubbing in; rolling, shaping and spreading. The students also had to judge correctly as to when it was time to remove their Pizza Pinwheels from the oven. I am enormously proud of how hard year 7 have worked since September; they have shown great enthusiasm and determination. I wish them well when transferring over to Design Technology.

Miss Frost



Royal Society of Chemistry Grant

The Science Department has been successful in their application for a grant from the Royal Society of Chemistry for their 'Elevating Chemistry' project. The fund is enabling us to fund revision resources for year 11 as part of a project to be run over the next two years. Resources have started being distributed to year 11, with additional resources due in year 2 of the project, subject to meeting the necessary conditions.

Foundation level combined science students are being provided with a



Knowledge Organiser and retriever books for Combined Science. Higher level combined science students will have access to Complete Revision and

Practice Guides for Combined Science. Separate science students will have access

to CGP textbooks and along with Complete Revision and Practice Guides for Chemistry.

Sets of revision cards should also be arriving next academic year for use in class as part of this scheme.

Mrs Rogeon

MER Boxing Academy and the GB Boxing Awards



This term we have been delighted to see the launch of the MER Boxing Academy, with our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 classes, coached by Liam Alloway. Liam is a successful boxing coach from Bulmershe Boxing Club. He also works with England Army Boxing Team.

Liam works with amateur and professional boxers, coaching novices, right up to elite champions.

This term some of our students have been working hard towards a series of awards known as the GB Boxing

Awards. The scheme is designed to introduce young people into the sport of boxing, learning about the rules, fitness, nutrition and the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle.

Mr Galvin



▲ Our Key Stage 4 class has been developing their knowledge and understanding of ring craft, defensive head movements and technical combinations.

▲ Our Key Stage 3 class has shown great progress, learning about the importance of stance, footwork and defence.

Year 11



Another term down! The countdown to PPE2 and GCSEs is well and truly on!

At the time of writing this (28th January) there were 108 days until the start of the GCSEs and my aim is for Y11 students to make the most of every single one of them. Revision corridors to support with PPE begin on 31st January and are a great opportunity to support students in preparing for the PPEs which will begin immediately after half term and it is great to hear about how so many students have been preparing for these for some time.

We are now halfway through the last "big term" that the students will have at Maiden Erlegh Reading, and they continue to make me proud with the way they engage with their learning and represent themselves. Form tutors have been furiously typing away completing references that highlight all of the strengths the students have and the students received a careers assembly to help them to be able to identify their own strengths so that they can utilise this in the interviews they may have coming up for their post-16 destinations.

The rest of this term is going to fly by and I hope that Year 11 will remember what I said to them in an assembly as we move through the final leg of their journey with us; "what can you do today to make you proud?"

Miss Davies

SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION

Olivia!
by Malcolm Sircom

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 31 March, 2022

School Council Eco-committee



The Eco-Committee team has done a brilliant job so far, holding many meetings with younger ambassadors and student bodies to seek better ways to help the environment throughout the school day.

During meetings, the Eco team had also discussed new ideas of recycling, they had a fantastic idea to recycle crisp packets; during break and lunch, a box was created to throw crisp packets into a separate bin. This improved the way, we as a school, recycled and had many positive impacts to our community. We hope to keep it up!



Also Maiden Erlegh School In Reading was invited to the Reading Climate Conference. We had students representing our school and taking over climate negotiations in a mock conference. The conference included talks to limit global warming which could significantly help the environment.



Finally, the Eco-Committee already has ideas for the 18th of March, Global Recycling day. They are taking this opportunity to educate students about the importance of recycling and what it can do for the community and environment.

Moving on to the School Council, they have been a significant part in our success this year. Holding meetings fortnightly, the team have discussed on how to improve the life of a Maiden Erlegh student with the younger student council. Doing this helped us hear

student voices and hearing their feedback, which meant we could make changes to make everybody happy.
Prajin (Head Boy)



Senior Student Leadership Group

The SSLG had a brilliant last term doing various jobs within the school; from the Head students delivering speeches at opening evenings to the whole of the SSLG participating in touring people around the school! The senior leaders are still desperately looking forward to doing more within the school and working alongside the teachers and the pupils!

The senior leaders swiftly entered their role through summer school and had an amazing time helping out the new year 7s who have evidently settled into the new environment of secondary school very quickly.

Through the leadership of the Cultural and diversity team the SSLG were able to begin their year with an outstanding cultural day, which consisted of a multitude of a variety of cultural foods

being distributed and tried throughout the day, as well as pupils and teachers being able to learn about interesting aspects about countries globally.

The success of this day was then crowned with hard work of the charity team who has made way for the school to contribute and raise money for various charities such as Children in need!

Furthermore, the senior leaders continue to work to allow everyone to have a chance to participate in many activities outside of school. Sports Leaders recently presented a talk on post-16 sporting opportunities which shared a lot of information on different sporting activities as well as sharing advice to anyone looking to have a sports career.

Megan (Head Girl)



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

Spring Term

5 January -
18 February 2022

28 February -
8 April 2022

CPD Day

11 February 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@maidenерleghschool.co.uk for support.