



# The Pulse

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

A short but very busy half term has produced some real highlights, not least the wonderful "Olivia" school production. There was a great deal of pride and satisfaction (and relief!) that all the preparations resulted in a fantastic evening for the cast, production team and, most importantly the audience. We have a very talented community.

Another highlight, of a different sort, was finally launching our school street scheme which has made a significant difference to the safety of students arriving to school. I appreciate that initially this caused some frustration, but I have been heartened by the comments and generally positive feedback that we have had. A huge THANKYOU to our team of marshals without whom it just wouldn't be possible.

Once again, I am pleased to report to you that the school remains the local school of choice for our community. The number of families opting to send their children here in September has grown and we are oversubscribed. We wish we could give everyone who wants one a place at our school but, alas, we have to limit the number to 180. Our transition work with the schools and families sending their children here in September has already started and will accelerate after the Easter break

This half term is very intense in terms of the support given for students, engagement with

parents and important decision making. Our year 8s have now successfully moved through the options process and have selected the courses that they wish to study next year. Our year 11s have been submitting applications to school and college 6<sup>th</sup> forms for the next phase of their training and education. We have had several parents' evenings and students in year 11 and 10 have been very focused on PPEs and the final run in

to their exams. Year 11 have a matter of weeks to go and the whole school community is working hard to support them.

Finally, this half term has been very busy in terms of staff recruitment. We have some great new staff joining the school either after the break or in September. This of course includes the new headteacher, Mr Will Graham, who will bring to the school a wealth of experience, skills and a huge commitment to our important school values. I look forward to introducing him to you in the next edition of the Pulse.



## CALENDAR

EASTER HOLIDAYS	11 - 22 April
Ski Trip - Austria	8 - 16 April
BANK HOLIDAY	02 May
Eid	03 May
DofE Bronze Practice Weekend	7 - 8 May
DofE Silver Practice Weekend	28 - 29 May
HALF TERM	30 May - 3 June

## GCSE English Literature - Years 9 and 10

Usually we are asking you to buy literature texts but we thought you may like to know that the set poetry unit year 9 and 10 are studying uses an anthology provided by the exam board, Edexcel.

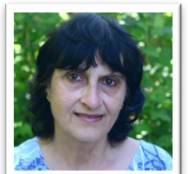
The students are studying a unit with the theme 'Time and Place' with poems ranging from the Romantic Era up to modern day multicultural poems by Grace Nichols and Moniza Alvi. There are online lessons from the Oak academy which cover the poems, a useful back up to supplement the work done in lessons.

Click [here](#) for a link to the website

Mrs Escott-New



Grace Nichols



Moniza Alvi



## SCHOOL PRODUCTION

# Olivia!

Wow, what a performance! The music, singing and choreography was outstanding with great comedic value - the performers didn't miss a beat. This was all brought together with brilliant costumes and props. The highlight for me has to be the scene at the opera.. fantastically executed and hilarious! It was clear to see how much hard work (from both students and staff) had gone into the production, and was a pleasure to see.

Mrs Swart



## British Science week 2022

On Wednesday 16th March the Science Department ran an after-school challenge for year 7 and 8 to celebrate British Science Week. This year's theme was "Growth".

Students had to complete 7 science puzzles that each gave them a code that opened a padlocked box. There they could collect leaves that they had to put together to "grow" a paper sunflower. The challenges were mostly practical, with the flame tests being particularly popular. There were also challenges where they had to name organs (sheep liver, heart and lungs), carry out some chemical reactions and use the colours to crack the code, build electrical circuits, use microscopes to solve tiny clues and one where they had to use facts about our solar system to work out the answer.

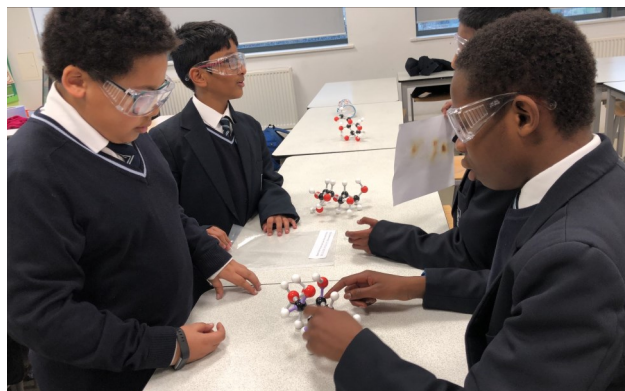


There was a palpable feeling of excitement during the challenge. Mr. James asked some students if they were enjoying the challenge and one student excitedly replied, "Who wouldn't!".

All students that completed the challenge won a small prize which included some sunflower seeds. We hope they will all now grow those seeds over the summer



and we will have a further challenge to see who can grow the tallest, with photos uploaded to the Science Challenge Google Classroom.



The final challenge was to guess the height of the world's tallest sunflower (according to the Guinness Book of Records). This was won by Srilakshmi in year 8, who wins a giant Easter egg!

The Science Department would like to thank the year 9, 10 and 11 students who helped us to provide this fun challenge safely for year 7 and 8. *Mr Baylis*



## Year 11

### The Final Countdown!

Well, we have reached the end of our final "big" term at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, and as always it was a busy one. Year 11 completed their final PPEs and we are well into the final run in to the GCSEs beginning on 16th May – the countdown is well and truly upon us!

Revision corridors have begun again, and I continue to be incredibly proud of how the majority of Year 11 are engaging with the support offered to them as we reach those final exams. As we return from Easter the final three weeks till the

exams begin will fly by and I am confident Year 11 will make the most of the time they have left. I mentioned in a recent assembly "do something to make you feel proud" and I hope that Year 11 feel proud of themselves for making it to the end of their journey at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. I know that when they leave us they are going to be brilliant young adults and they are going to go on to brilliant things.

This term I have also been working on the celebratory things for Year 11, such as the yearbook, hoodies and doing further

work on the Year 11 Prom and would like to take the opportunity to remind you that payments are still being accepted for the Prom – it will close to payments at the end of April – let's have as many Year 11s there to celebrate as possible.

Year 11 - Lets make the most of the final weeks at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading and leave a brilliant legacy behind, showing everybody how incredible you are!

*Miss Davies*



THE CLOSING  
DATE FOR  
APPLICATIONS  
IS FRIDAY 15  
APRIL

# BE PART OF OUR CATERING TEAM

## ABOUT OUR CATERING POSITIONS

The successful applicants for our Catering Assistants will ideally have experience of working in a similar environment but it is not essential as training will be provided.

The successful applicant for our School Chef will be qualified to **NVQ Level 2** or equivalent and have proven experience of food preparation within a large catering team, a sound knowledge of health and safety regulations and COSHH and be a role model for those around them.

## INTERESTED AND WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

If you would like to find out more or apply for one of the roles, full job descriptions and application forms can be found on our website or by emailing our recruitment team, [recruitment@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:recruitment@maidenerleghtrust.org)

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THESE ROLES IS 9AM FRIDAY 15 APRIL 2022.

### MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL, EARLEY CATERING ASSISTANTS

TRAINING PROVIDED

Provision of support in the preparation, cooking and service of food during very busy lunchtimes plus related catering duties.

**TERM TIME ONLY**  
**+2 INSET DAYS**

**HOURS: 17.5 HOURS P/W**  
**SALARY: £10.19 HOURLY RATE**

### MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL IN READING CATERING ASSISTANTS

TRAINING PROVIDED

Provision of support in the preparation, cooking and service of food during very busy lunchtimes plus related catering duties.

**TERM TIME ONLY**  
**+2 INSET DAYS**

**HOURS: 17.5 HOURS P/W**  
**SALARY: £10.19 HOURLY RATE**

### MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL, EARLEY 1X SCHOOL CHEF

NVQ  
L2

Providing cooked meals, ordering supplies, staff supervision and rotas, controlling service and cleaning of catering facilities, plus menu planning (including allergens) and ensuring a smooth and efficient delivery of service during very busy lunchtimes.

**TERM TIME ONLY**  
**+5 INSET DAYS**

**HOURS: 37 HOURS P/W**  
**SALARY: £21,932**

If you are interested or would like to discuss a role, please email our Recruitment team, [recruitment@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:recruitment@maidenerleghtrust.org) before the closing date of **Friday 15 April 2022**.

## Our Cultural Heritage

In November, we held a cultural diversity day during which we celebrated the many cultures from which students in our school herald. As part of this, students were asked to identify countries that they felt formed part of their cultural heritage. We were then able to map this data, which you can find below. We have also produced an interactive version of the map which allows you to

zoom in to explore smaller countries and hover your mouse cursor over each country to see the exact number of students identifying with each country.

This can be found here:

<https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/L3yDU/6/>

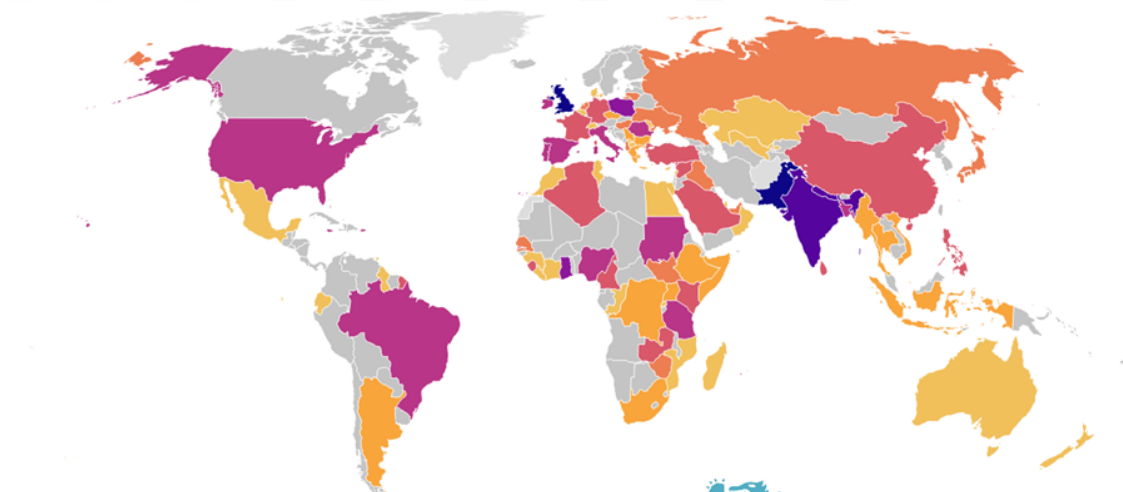


### Cultural heritage of students at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading 2021-22

Every student was asked which nationalities they considered to be part of their cultural heritage. This might include the country of their birth, where they grew up and/or family heritage. We then mapped this data to show the shared cultural heritage of our school.

#### Number of students

< 1    1-2    2-3    3-5    5-10    10-25    25-50    50-100    ≥ 100



MAIDEN ERLEGH  
SCHOOL IN READING

## Languages House Competition

In the current context, many countries are welcoming a number of Ukrainian refugees. At MER we are encouraging our students to learn some basic Ukrainian greetings using Quizlet through a language competition open to all years. For example “Hello” “how are you” “thank you” etc...

It is an empowering way to help welcome Ukrainian pupils in our school.  
*From MFL department*



## Uniform Exchange

We would like to ask families for donations of any school uniform that is no longer needed. Should you have any spare uniform to donate, this can be brought to the main reception or dropped off by your child at Student Services. We would really appreciate any donations to help develop a second hand uniform offering for those that need this.



# MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST

If you are interested in any of these roles, please email Vicky Boatman, Clerk to the Board of Trustees via [governors@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:governors@maidenerleghtrust.org)

THERE ARE TYPICALLY FIVE LAB MEETINGS PER YEAR PLUS THREE TRAINING SESSIONS TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT.

## BE PART OF OUR GOVERNANCE TEAM OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

### OUR LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Local Advisory Boards (LABs) are crucial elements of our work with schools and communities.

LAB members (Governors) are key partners to both the school and the Trust and help secure the best possible education for all learners, and best possible working environment for staff, in line with our Vision and Ethos.

The role description and person specification for Local Advisory Board Members can be found [HERE](#).

### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED IN A ROLE?

We have a variety of Local Advisory Board Member openings available across our schools. There are also Chair of the Local Advisory Board opportunities available, to provide effective leadership to the LAB.

We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in these roles. Experience of school governance or related fields would be helpful but is NOT essential as we would provide training.

### CHAIR OF THE LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Chair of the Local Advisory Board provides leadership to the LAB and ensures that LAB members fulfil their functions for the proper governance and ethical leadership of the school.

The Chair facilitates the Local Advisory Board, working as a team to challenge, support and contribute to the effective leadership of the school.

The role description and person specification for the Chair of the Local Advisory Board can be found [HERE](#).



Maiden Erlegh Trust is committed to safeguarding, the principles of equality and the celebration of diversity and would want all new LAB members to share these commitments.



MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL



MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL IN READING



MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Cranbury College



HamiltonSchool  
A PLACE OF EDUCATION, GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY

**Food Technology**

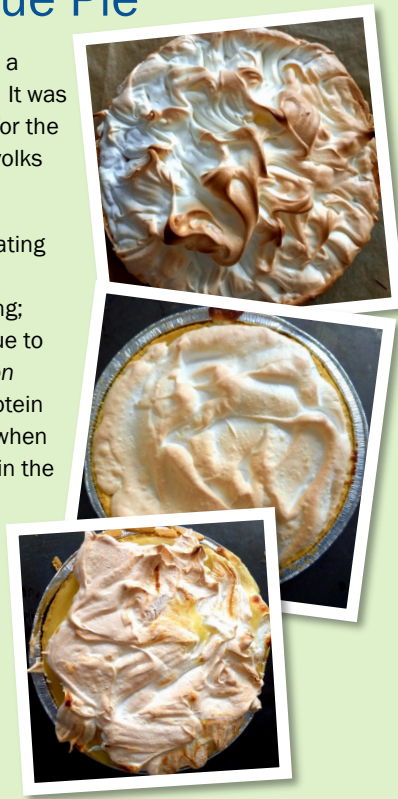
## Year 9 Lemon Meringue Pie

The year 9 food technology students excelled in a recent practical making LEMON MERINGUE PIE. It was a highly technical challenge involving blending for the lemon filling, separation of the egg whites and yolks and also whisking for the meringue.

The students were also successful in demonstrating scientific skills, including: *Gelatinisation* of the starch in the cornflour to thicken the lemon filling; *Denaturation* of the protein in the egg whites due to the acid from the lemon juice; *Mechanical action* using an electrical whisk; *Coagulation* of the protein in the eggs within the sauce and the meringue when heated; and finally *caramelisation* of the sugar in the meringue as it baked causing the meringue to turn golden.

Year 9 were enormously successful and I was very impressed with their persistence and determination to succeed in such a highly skilled practical food challenge.

Miss Frost



## Year 7 Practical



The year 7 food technology students did a fantastic job in a recent practical where they were tasked to chop a variety of vegetables using 2 safe chopping methods: *The Claw Grip* and *The Bridge Hold*. The students also demonstrated great knife safety and hygiene. I was extremely impressed with their efforts.

Miss Frost



## Year 8 Chopping Techniques

The year 8 food technology students demonstrated fantastic knife safety skills in a recent practical lesson. The students learnt the theory behind the 'Claw Grip' and the 'Bridge Hold' cutting techniques. It was then their turn to show off what

they had learned on different types of vegetables. Considering the students were unable to carry out practical lessons in year 7 due to the impact of Covid, they were still extremely successful and safe.

Miss Frost



## Year 7 Guide Dogs Visit

On Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 during morning PSMSC, the year 7 students were joined by 2 special guests from the inspiring charity Guide Dogs. Cheryl, along with her guide Dog 'Hetty' came in to talk to the students about their own personal life experiences, as well as explaining about all of the incredible work Guide Dogs do in helping those affected by sight loss or visual impairment. The students were absolutely fantastic throughout, asking several great questions, with some students even being lucky enough to stroke and pet Hetty!

Students generously donated towards the wonderful charity, totally up to a huge sum of £51.60! Adding to previous donations, the current total is

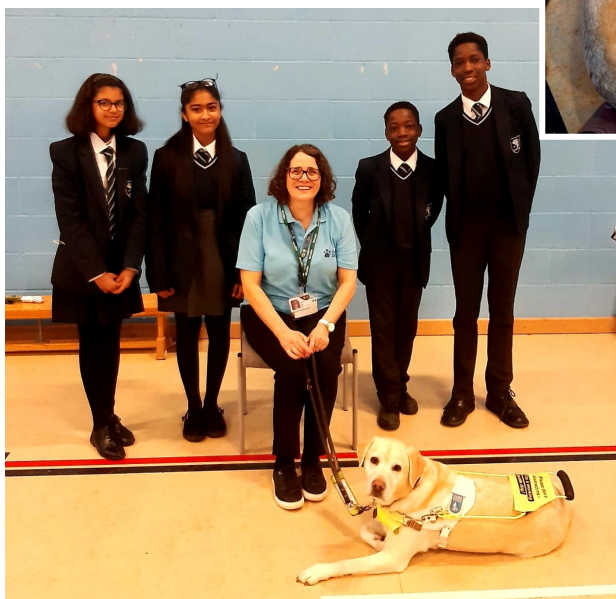
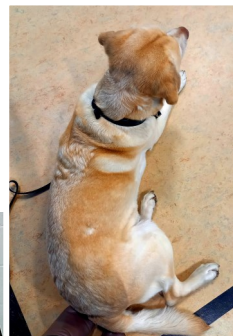
now standing at £182.00!! An incredible achievement!

If you would like to contribute to this total, there is still time to do so by using the link [HERE](#):

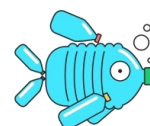
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff members for their generous donations and

everyone involved behind the scenes in organising such a successful event. It would not have been possible without your support.

Miss Frost



## Silver Programme Ocean Waste Solutions Session



Year 7 students took part in a Silver Programme session looking at the problem of ocean waste, in particular plastic pollution. They then had to present their ideas around ocean waste solutions and justify their choice of solutions. Both teams did well, eloquently explaining and debating their choices. *Mr Tomsett*



## Year 7

Happy Easter!

**We have made it to Easter!  
2 terms down – 1 to go.**

This term has shown some amazing successes –

- The girls netball team
- The boys football team
- Tutor reading programme
- Boxing club
- Cica and achievement in his boxing award
- Tremendous number of house points
- Amazing assembly line up

As always I am proud of you all BUT this half term I have had even more fuzzy moments.

Your input, interactions and willingness in assembly has made me smile so much. The highlight for me was the Guide Dog and young interpreters assembly. As a

year group you raised £51, the questions you asked were sensible, enlightening and showed maturity beyond your years. This is being noticed around school

I would like to thank you for allowing the Young Interpreters to present an assembly.

We were all so impressed by how quietly yr 7's came in and how respectfully they were during the assembly. It made the Young Interpreters, Sarah, Srilakshmi and Serah feel a lot less nervous and they enjoyed presenting the assembly. You should be very proud of Year 7 they were amazing!

A couple of things we need to continue to work on-

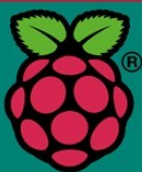
- a reminder that you should not be having energy drinks, sweets or chocolate.
- A reminder you should have your blazer on during the school day – they should only be off in lessons.

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*



## THE RASPBERRY PI

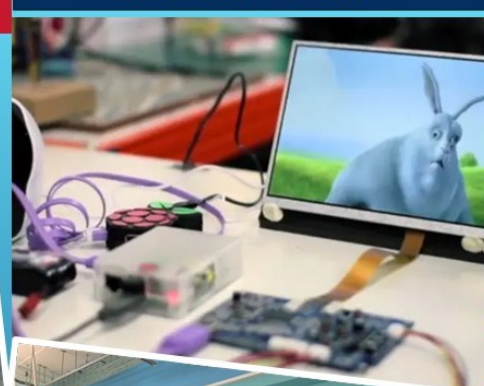


Year 8 Silver programme students enjoyed programming using Raspberry Pi (The mini-computer) in after-school coding club conducted by Mrs Neethirajan.

They created their own game by assembling the components like Potentiometer, ADC converter on the bread board and successfully played the game.



### Extra-curricular club





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:merlettings@maidenerleghtrust.org)



**MAIDEN ERLEGH**  
SCHOOL IN READING

Using the opening to Luis Sachar's novel, "Holes", as a stimulus, Year 8 wrote their own version. This one used the pandemic as its subject.

### The government makes the rules

There was no hope for 2020. There once was a very lively planet, the liveliest planet in the universe. But that was over 3 years ago. After that it was a deserted waste and like all other planets. There used to be restaurants and malls and amusement parks you could visit as well. But some went down and out of business along with everyone else. During the day there were

some people taking a 15 minute walk - if you can find any people. There's not a lot of people outside in a deserted country.

The only people you can find are two policemen on the far side of Reading. Between them, multiple signs saying "No Entry Without A Mask" are spread around the walls and a supermarket stands

behind it. Anyone without a mask is forbidden to go in; that's what the government said. The government makes the rules.

At the centre part of the country, a horrible virus hides around every nook and cranny.

*Laura year 8*

## So you want to be a doctor



The 'So you want to be a doctor' club has been busy over the last term! Students have made model lungs, completed a sheep's brain dissection, extracted DNA from fruit and had talks from various guest speakers. Here are a few pictures:

Upcoming talks include:

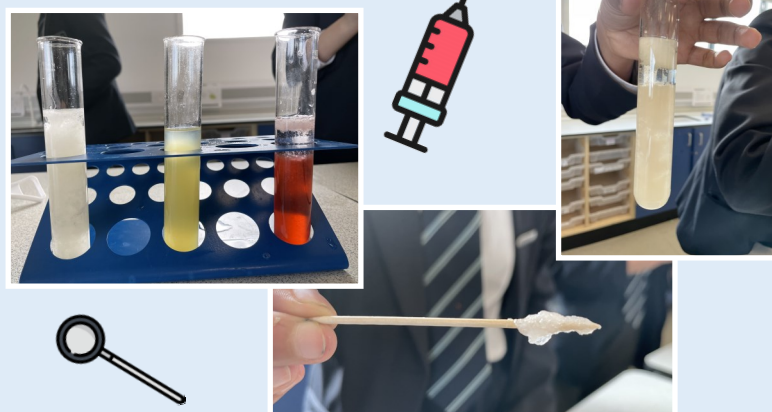
- Occupational therapist 30<sup>th</sup> March
- Paediatric Intensive Care Nurse 6<sup>th</sup> April
- GP 4<sup>th</sup> May
- Consultant radiotherapy physicist 11<sup>th</sup> May

Students still have time to enter the StepintotheNHS national competition with their own presentation about an NHS career. Please contact Mrs Rogeon ASAP if you would like to do so.

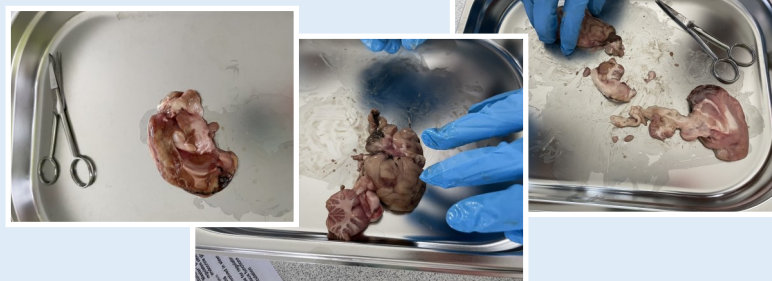
Model lung



Extracting dna



Sheep Brain dissection



**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 Term	25 April - 27 May 2022
	6 June - 21 July 2022
CPD Day	1 July 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@maidenerleghschool.co.uk](mailto:parentapp@maidenerleghschool.co.uk) for support.