



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 school year continues apace and we are now looking towards the final half term of this school year. We want to make every learning minute count and, to that end, we have spent time as a staff team through our "Teaching for Excellence" programme supporting teachers in their professional development and practice and reviewing our curriculum so that it is as strong as it can be in supporting great learning. We gladly do this as we want to be the very best for the young people in our care.

For the first time since we opened as a school, we have started a full round of year 11 summer examinations! Our last two summers saw the disruption of COVID and the assessed grades process which schools had to put in place and it is a huge relief that we have been able to get back to the normal way of assessing student's achievement through public examinations. I have been very proud of the way that year 11 have prepared, worked and revised ready for these examinations. The exams give the opportunity for our students to demonstrate what they can do and I know so many of them are keen to show that. Working as hard, have been our magnificent staff team who have pulled out all the stops to support and invest their time and effort into helping the students fulfil their potential with extra revision sessions, booster sessions and additional help. On Monday 23 May we held a farewell assembly and wished our year 11 students good luck for the future. Thankyou to Miss Davies who has led the year group through until the end of their time with us. We wish them all every

success for the future. As it is the first year, I must also mention the hard work of our exams team, ably led by Jen Gale. Hosting and organising the exams is a significant logistical undertaking and so far, the season is going very smoothly.

Alongside our very serious academic work, it has been heartening to see our students getting involved in varied activities and opportunities, not least our Duke of Edinburgh group who have been busy preparing for their qualifying expedition and ensuring that they are completing the other necessary tasks. Across the school so many students are getting involved in the many opportunities, within and outside the curriculum. It is great to see.

Inevitably, as we move towards the final part of the year, we start to look forward to next academic year. Mr Graham, the school's new headteacher from September, is eager to get going and has been involved alongside me and other leaders in ensuring that we recruit some great colleagues to the school. We are also considering what our priorities and development areas should be – thank you to all parents for your feedback on those themes in of parent survey this year.

Finally, I wish everybody a good break whether you are planning to join in with the jubilee festivities or just looking for some peace and quiet.



CALENDAR

Half Term	30 May - 3 June
Silverstone Museum Trip	8 June
Geography Year 10 Field Trip	13 - 15 June
Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community	14 June
DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition	25 - 26 June
Year 9 Progress Meeting	30 June
Year 11 Prom	1 July
CPD Day (school closed)	1 July
Eid ul Azha	9 - 11 July
World Youth Skills Day	15 July
DofE Silver Qualifier Weekend	16 -17 July
Summer Holiday	22 July - 3 September

School Uniform

The weather is now getting warmer and so we have taken the decision to move to summer uniform from Monday 9 May until the end of the school year.

This means:

- Blazers now become optional
- Ties will be optional (and top buttons can be undone)

STAFF VACANCIES

All our vacancies can be found on the Maiden Erleigh Trust website **HERE** or on the TES website **HERE**.





This summer school gives you the chance to experience what it is like to study at medical school and explore medicine as a future career.

Year 11 Medical Summer School

The Science Department is very pleased to announce that Sajida (year 11) has been offered a place at the Imperial College London Medical Summer School programme!

The description of what to expect on the programme is given on the website as follows:

'Students will spend three to four days learning about what it takes to become a doctor through talks, workshops and practical activities. There will be sessions on a variety of specialisms within medicine as well as support for preparing

a strong application to medical school. Students will also have the chance to experience broader university life through a series of social activities and time to relax with other participants and undergraduate mentors.'

The opportunity was advertised to our year 11 students via our Science Competition and Opportunities Google Classroom. We will be continuing to add any relevant opportunities to this, and the equivalent KS3, Google Classroom.

Mrs Rogeon



Maiden Erlegh Independent Project (MEIP) presentation evening



On Wednesday 11th May, students and their families attended the presentation evening for the MEIP. These students completed a 1500 word essay and project portfolio on a project of their own interest. Topics ranged from the history of the art form, Manga to how artificial intelligence could be used in conjunction with the law. The projects were then submitted and marked against criteria used for the A Level extended project qualification, which is extremely rigorous. One student was awarded the Gold Award, while all other students were awarded either a Silver or Bronze award which is a superb achievement. The students then did themselves proud on the night presenting a summary of their project and it was fantastic to be able to hold this kind of event in person rather than online. Well done to all involved! The MEIP 2022 will also be run for Y7-Y9 after half term, so keep your eyes open for further information regarding this.

Mr Tomsett



Year 11



The time is now...

So we have reached the final leg of our journey, the GCSEs begin 16 May and this is Year 11s opportunity to shine, something that I know they will do.

We have had revision corridors, booster sessions, revision lessons and more to aid the students along the way, and I have been really proud of how the majority of students have risen to the challenges they have faced, and tried to make the most of every moment of year 11 – really doing all they can to make themselves proud! I am confident their efforts will be reflected in those all important envelopes in August.

It has been a privilege to lead Year 11 throughout their time at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading and I will truly miss seeing them when they leave us and move on to the next step in their journey. I know that they are all going to go on to brilliant things and I would like to thank you all as parents/carers for your time, efforts and support over the past 5 years.

The only thing left to say is – Year 11, you can do it, go out there and absolutely smash these exams like I know you can!

Miss Davies

CAREERS UPDATE

Careers Assemblies:

A little while ago, students in Year 11 had an assembly which covered recognising their strengths and skills, and how to share them in applications and at interviews. This ability to do this is one of the key to success!

Google Classroom – 'Skill / Job of the Week', opportunities and top tips:

Each week, we focus on a 'Skill (or) Job of the Week' via Google Classroom. We also continue to upload great opportunities and useful information and top tips on a regular basis. Students are encouraged to keep an eye on Google Classroom to ensure they do not miss out on any opportunities.

Careers Spotlight:

We shared *Issue 14* of the 'Careers Spotlight' at the beginning of term, which contained careers-related news from around the Trust. If you missed it, please do take a look [here](#). Issue 15 will be out after May Half Term.

Careers Room:

We are delighted to have a room in which we have careers posters and soon we will also have some college and university prospectuses for the students to browse through (it is never too early to start thinking and preparing for the future!).

Our sights are now set on creating some fantastic Careers Displays throughout the school.

Careers appointments:

We are so pleased that our Year 11 students have exciting destinations and plans for when they leave MER. Although it will be sad to see them go, we wish them every success for the future life and careers!

If any Year 11 students are still awaiting confirmation of their next steps and require help – please can they speak to their Tutor or send me an email via a.finlason@maidenerleghtrust.org. We want everyone to feel good that they have a plan and positive place after Year 11.

Upcoming events and plans:

One-to-one Careers Appointments – Year 10

This month, we started careers appointments for students in Year 10 – these will continue until the end of term, and re-start during September. The aim is to help students prepare for their next steps after Year 11. This is the time for students in Year 10 especially to be considering their interests, strengths, values and preferences

as regards their future career. Exploring what Sixth Forms, Further Education Colleges and Apprenticeships have to offer is essential – students can then make informed decisions about which pathway suits them best.

Work Experience and Careers Workshops – Year 10

We are delighted to be planning a fantastic day for our Year 10 students for the week of Monday 20 – Friday 24 June. During the week students will have the opportunity to shadow someone within the workplace – we are thrilled about this as it has not been possible over the past couple of years. We also have some inspirational workshops covering preparing for interviews, looking at strengths and skills and exploring opportunities for F.E. College, Sixth Form, apprenticeships, and even university and employment. We are very excited that our Year 10 students will be setting up their UNIFROG accounts on this week!...

Trust subscription to UNIFROG

UNIFROG is a dynamic careers and destinations platform – we are delighted to have been able to secure funding for all our students to benefit from UNIFROG. We will be sure to send you more details soon.

UNIFROG will be introduced to every student from Year 7 through to Year 11 – it is going to provide some fantastic assistance for ALL our students.

Thank you everyone!

Mrs Finlason



Nutrition advice for Reading Rockets

Since January this year, we have welcomed the fantastic and highly successful Reading Rockets Basketball Team into MER each month. As nutrition is extremely important for athletic performance, I have been hosting the basketball athletes into our food technology room to learn about various topics of performance nutrition, to enhance

their performance. The Reading Rockets were given a theory introduction behind each topic, followed by a hands-on practical to learn new skills.

Mr Ben Fisher - Head of Youth for Reading Rockets Basketball Club has been impressed with how well the nutrition workshops have been attended. He said:

"The nutrition workshops that our Diploma in Sporting Excellence students have been attending with Miss Frost have been informative, educational, and interactive and the feedback from them has been very positive. Nutrition and hydration are especially important as an

athlete and our DiSE players have been learning about how both play a

significant part in their performance both on and off the basketball court. Miss Frost has been very passionate to help the young people who attend the John Madejski Academy and has had a significant impact in how the students see and value their food and drink."

It has been an absolute pleasure hosting the Reading Rockets Basketball Team and I wish them every success.

Miss Frost



NATIONAL CIPHER CHALLENGE

Year 7 & 8 Silver programme students created a Julius Caesar Cipher Wheel for decrypting encrypted messages in after-school Cipher Challenge club conducted by Mrs J and Mrs Taylor. Every week students will be learning a decrypting skill for competing in the National Cipher Challenge commencing on 16th September 2022.

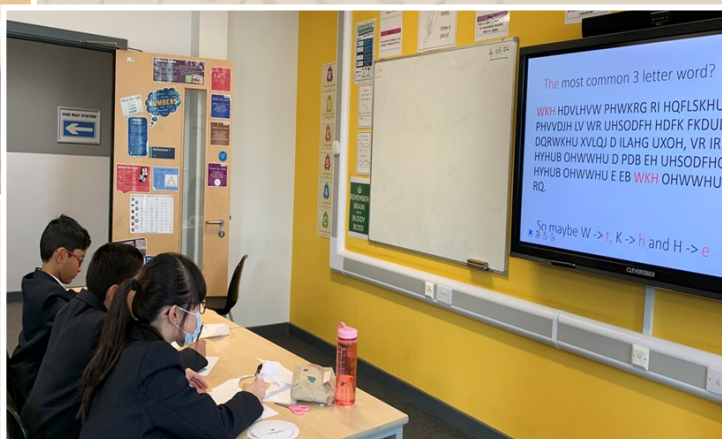


HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Interested students sign up by writing their name on the sheet outside the Maths office or join the Google Classroom code: **bgauplp**

Challenge session run every Tuesday/Wednesday.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS!!



The exams are upon us!

It has been a long time coming but our Year 11s have finally reached their GCSEs – the first cohort to go through the examination period.

Year 11 have approached this with such maturity and I know their hard work will pay off.

Everyone at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading knows you can do it. The staff went out to write some good luck messages on the walkway round to the exams as some final words of encouragement.



The booster sessions will continue throughout the exam period as a final revision stop for students, and one last boost before they enter the exam hall – it has been brilliant to see how many students are attending these.

As myself and Mrs Gibbs said in that final assembly, remember, you are more than the results, just go out there and try your best, that is all we can ask for!

Miss Davies



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

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



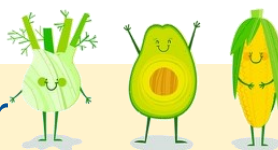
Cranbury
College



HamiltonSchool
A PLACE OF EDUCATION, GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY

Food Technology

Year 7 Pasta Salad in a Jar



Year 7 students have been enormously successful this term in their food technology practicals. Students were recently assigned to make 'Pasta Salad in a Jar' based on the Eatwell Guide – incorporating a carbohydrate, fat, protein, dairy and vegetables. The students demonstrated fantastic skill, precision and amazing safety and hygiene practices.

I look forward to seeing how the students progress in Food Technology in the weeks to come.

Miss Frost

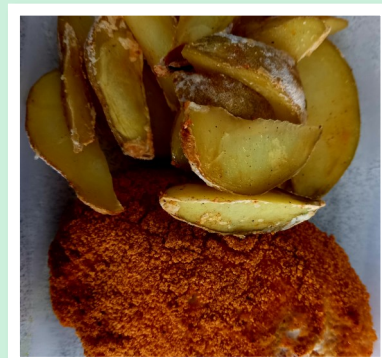


Year 8 Southern-Style Chicken

Year 8 food technology students were extremely successful in their recent 'Southern-Style Chicken and Sweet Potato Fries' practical lesson. The students demonstrated fantastic creativity in their ingredient choices, especially when it came to seasonings and flavourings. The students also demonstrated great awareness of food safety when handling raw chicken by using a temperature meat probe excellently, making sure that their chicken was cooked properly with a minimal internal temperature of 75 degrees.



Miss Frost





Duke of Edinburgh Award Practice Weekend



Year 9 students who are participating in the bronze Duke of Edinburgh award underwent their practice weekends in May. Lots of fun was had, and lots of lessons were learnt! We set off from JMA and the pupils followed their pre-planned routes which had to pass the check point at the Cuning Man pub before returning to the field where we were staying. Once we were back from the walk, the pupils learnt how to set up their tents and prepare their food. A huge range of food was cooked in the evening, including burgers, sausages, pot noodles, rice and pasta. I think it's safe to say, the group who brought burgers won't be doing that for their qualifying expedition in June! It took them ages to cook! We then played some team games and wrapped up the evening with some important first

aid to make sure they are all safe when they're remotely supervised on their expedition. After a rough night's sleep, we packed up the tents and had a debrief where we summarised what we can take forward to our qualifying expedition in the summer. Watch this space for more updates from our expedition at the end of June.



A huge thank you to Miss Harrison-Smith, Miss Nemeth, Miss Ryan, Mr Rabin, Miss Wildman, Miss Hind, Mrs Edwards, Miss McElhinney and Mrs Lenox for their time over the weekends.

Miss Ryan



Combined Cadet Force

Oskar from Year 10 took this amazing opportunity to take to the skies with the air cadets. Here he is flying over Berkshire!



Year 10

As most of you know I joined the Family of MER just a few weeks ago and I must say, I am super impressed with what I have seen so far. Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

This half term year 10 students sat their PPEs, once again I was super impressed with the enthusiasm and effort they put into this and we now await the results, which I am sure will reflect their hard work.

As the weather has got warmer Summer uniform has been introduced – no ties, no blazer but we can still look smart so remember no trainers.

Punctuality seems to be a concern to lessons and to school. *Remember if you are 1 minute late a day, that is 5 minutes late a week, that is 210 minutes a year. You are in school for about another year, so that is 210 minutes of learning you are missing out on - this will make a difference to your GCSE grades! However, I am convinced you can turn this around.*



Really looking forward to working with you all.

Mr Gaddu

Our Exam Team

This summer has seen MER finally run a full exam season for the year 11 students after 2 years of covid. As Examinations Officer it has been a weird experience, having been in the role since 2019 but not having run a season but everything has started well and hopefully will continue that way. The students have so

far been excellent. I don't do this on my own, so massive thanks to my excellent team of invigilators and TAs who support me during all exams, internal and external – it can't be done without them.

Mrs Gale



Year 8



Year 8 have had a busy but very exciting time since the new year. The students completed their Year 8 assessment week in the spring term which gave them a chance to show off all their knowledge. All students took on this challenge with good enthusiasm and got their rewards with some great results. We have also been looking forward as a group giving students some important

information about potential career options and pathway to achieve

these. This has allowed the students to make informed decisions on which subjects they wish to take for GCSE. The year group continues to progress with their attitudes to learning and maturity, with a massive improvement in their punctuality to lessons. One half term left with a variety of fun and challenging activities on the horizon.

Mr Bandy



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@maidenerleghttrust.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@maidenerleghttrust.org



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

Year 7

Can you believe it is half term already! This is a very quick half term and we are on the downward hill to the summer holidays.

As always – standards are high. Summer uniform has been introduced – no ties, no blazer and I know you will be very excited about this. But we can still look smart, Year 7.

This term we are going to be focusing on punctuality with the introduction of late club. I am hoping to see the late club numbers go down. *Remember if you are 1 minute late a day, that is 5 minutes late a week, that is 210 minutes a year. You are in school for 5 years, so that is over 1000 minutes late – this will make a difference to your GCSE grades!*

You will also be taking part in your very own tutor group assemblies – I am really looking forward to these.

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



SPORTS NEWS

Cica, Year 7, MER Boxing Academy

A big well done to Cica who has completed the second stage of the GB Boxing Awards at the MER Boxing Academy. It is really great to see how much progress has been made in just 12 weeks.



Year 7, Boys Football Squad

A huge well done to our Year 7 Boys' Football Team who have really impressed us this term with some brilliant performances. After beating Reading Boys 3-0 in their debut match they set the

expectations high. They continued to impress us, beating a strong Denefield side 2-1 and Maiden Erlegh 1-0. We are very excited to see this team develop next season!



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@maidenrleghschool.co.uk for support.