

J. F.

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

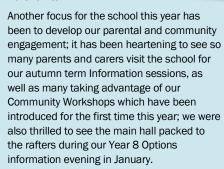
Welcome to our first edition of the Pulse in 2023!

Today marks 100 days since I was appointed as Headteacher at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading; it has been very busy, exciting and sometimes challenging, but we have made a huge amount of progress since September and I am very proud of our students and our staff who have worked so hard in the process. We remain committed to our core purpose of putting our students at the heart of what we do, celebrating and embracing our diversity, providing every student with a range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities and supporting them to achieve their potential and achieve personal success.

We started the academic year on a high with our first set of externally assessed GCSE results; since then the Department for Education has confirmed that the progress made by our Year 11 students last year was significantly above the national average, which is further validation that by following the MER DREAM; showing Determination, being Respectful, striving for Excellence, demonstrating a positive Attitude towards learning as well as the Maturity to make the right choices, every student has the opportunity in our school to achieve success.

Whilst focusing on excellent academic outcomes is a constant priority, providing our students with additional enrichment opportunities is equally important. Our extracurricular programme is designed to maximise those opportunities for every student in our school; clubs are run regularly in a variety of areas including music, drama, sport, technology, English, Maths, languages to name but a few. Earlier in the year, a group of budding engineers was crowned National Champions for the "furthest flight" category in the RAF Gilder Challenge. Our Combined Cadet Force continues to go from strength to strength, as does our Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme with 31 Year 9 students participating in the Bronze award and 40 Year 10 students in the Silver. A recent exciting, new development has been the forging of a partnership between MER and Reading Rockets Basketball Club, who are now running weekly sessions for our

students (boys and girls) free of charge. We will also be offering Judo sessions for students next half term.



One of the key pillars every school needs to strengthen the bond with home and the local community is a thriving Parent & Teacher Association; we held our first ever Annual General Meeting in November and have not only now formed our main Committee, but also held our first PTA fundraising event at the Options evening which raised £66. We look forward to building on this solid start to raise more funds to create additional opportunities for our young people.

As we finish this half term, we also celebrate an early Valentines Day with our Senior Student Leadership Group organising a special Valentine Bake Sale for students and staff; the money raised will be split between our 3 chosen charities this year; Launchpad; New Beginnings and Daisy's Dream and to raise funds for the Year 11 Prom.

Thank you to parents and carers for you continued engagement with and support for our school, we thank you in particular for your reinforcement of our expectations on uniform and behaviour, including the importance of attending and being punctual to school every day. Chances of success are maximised by excellent attendance so it is vital that every student makes this their number one priority after the half term break.

We look forward to welcoming your son/ daughter back into school on Monday 20 February.

Wishing you all an enjoyable half term. Will Graham

CALENDAR

13 February - 17 February	HALF TERM
Ski Trip	10 - 18 February
2 March	Options Surgeries
2 March	Year 11 GCSE Presentation evening
3 March	Year 8 Options Deadline
9 March	Year 10 Progress Meeting
20 March	Careers Week
22 March	School Production
30 March	Year 7 Progress Meeting



The X Factory - 22 March

The Drama and Music departments are excited for the forthcoming production of *The X Factory* which is this year's school musical. Staff and students have been working extremely hard in rehearsals preparing for this show which will be one of the highlights of the year for both departments.

Watch out for further communications nearer the time on how you can get your tickets. We look forward to seeing you there. Mr Butchers and Mr Sparks

STAFF VACANCIES

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



Year 7

What a great start to 2023 we've had in year 7!



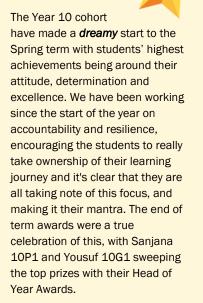
We started the spring term with a huge celebration of the amazing students who managed to reach the bronze and silver club. These students achieved over 350 and 500 DREAM points respectively – an outstanding achievement. I'm looking forward to seeing lots more year 7s reaching these targets and wearing their badges with pride!

In year 7 this term, we've been working on having a positive attitude. I have been so impressed with the amount of students showing off their great attitudes and getting involved in loads of different things this term. We've got students in the school production, students joining clubs out of their comfort zone, and students showcasing the MER way every day.

I can't wait to see how we continue to develop as the year goes on and look forward to seeing lots more success and hard work!

Miss Ryan

Year 10



Mrs Cotton

Year 8 Subject Information Evening

It was wonderful to see so many Year 8 students, parents and carers on Tuesday 24 January at our Year 8 GCSE Subject Information Evening. This event is an important step in the options process for our Year 8 students as they decide which GCSE subjects and courses they will choose to study in Years 9, 10 and 11.

The Year 8 Information Evening provided an exciting opportunity for our students to think carefully about their future aspirations and pathways. Alongside the Options Booklet, those who attended were provided with information and advice to help them make those informed decisions through a key information presentation by Ms. Williams. Following the presentation, students, parents and carers met with subject leaders to learn more about the

courses being offered and received valuable advice from current Year 9 students.

Further information to support students making curriculum choices, along with our Options Booklet are available via our Year 8 Options web page.

Mrs Williams

It was lovely to meet you last evening and we were very impressed with the effort school had made to help parents and children navigate the "Options" process. Thank you very much for this information.





Are you interested in learning a musical instrument?

We currently offer lessons in the following instruments:

- Drums
- Violin
- Flute

- Piano/keyboard Trumpet/trombone
- Saxophone

Maestros

- Guitar
- Singing



Sign up at www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk or see Mr Butchers for more information.

MAIDEN ERLEGH

MER Parent Teacher Association

We are delighted to announce that we have now formed a PTA at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. We held our first AGM in November 2022 and held our first fundraising event in January 2023, providing refreshments at the

Year 8 options evening. 'Cake and Cream' kindly donated samosas for us to sell on the evening and these were a big hit!

RENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION The Committee currently comprises a Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary. We have also received support from Hanan Alshawi, who has designed this wonderful logo for the PTA. Please look out for a schedule of events and details of our fundraising targets,

which will be shared shortly. If you are interested in joining the committee or in volunteering at future events, please contact us via the office

meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org. We are looking for a Grants and fundraising

> officer in particular. We hope to see you a future event!

We are also looking to set up a uniform swap where parents can swap logo items for those in a different size. In order to

do this, we need donations of logo uniform items. If you have anything you can donate, please drop them off in the red boxes in reception. We hope to share details of the scheme soon!

Year 8

The New Year is a time to highlight the positives, reflect and set targets for the new year ahead. As Team Year 8, we do this every half term.

Since September I am so proud of the amount of **DREAM** points Year 8 have been awarded.

8G1	12040
8G2	11266
8P1	12525
8P2	12372
8T1	11457
8T2	12817

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

As Team Year 8 we are getting lots of DREAM 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 8 - we know we are the best and we are showing this day to day. Keep it up!

Miss Hancock



Year 9

Currently Year 9 students are getting used to a new Head of Year and looking positively to the future.

As a year group - they have made me really proud in a very short space of time. We are going to great things together

We are getting into our stride with our DREAM points and I look forward to

continuous praise from the many members of staff who appreciate the way that the year group is developing.

Ms Headley

9G1 1191 9G2 1427 1308 9P1 9P2 1167 9T1 1357 9T2 1157





After School Club

Every Wednesday 3:15pm to 4:15pm See Mrs Lenox for details

What is Dungeons and Dragons? How would you describe it?

Dungeons and Dragons (DND) is a thrilling game first published in 1974. The main point is to have fun and be engaged in a story, which you can affect the outcome of, or make the very story, and engage players using it as an outlet for imagination and creativity.

DNDs is a fun social game that enables players and Dungeon Masters (DM) to explore their imagination and to pretend to have supernatural qualities that they might dream of.

It has one rule and that's to have fun.

The DM is the gateway for the players' curiosity of the imagined world as they make and shift whatever story elements. They also create the story and try to captivate the players in a story through a combination of planned story writing and improv acting. It also uses maths and dice as well to make it structured and simulate the chaotic randomness of life sometimes.

I would personally describe DND- as a DMas a way to express my imagination into a character and have fun with my friends. DND can also help me to understand different perspectives from the randomisation of characters I could make. As a player, it's interesting to experience different characters and have so much fun.

Why does it matter? Why should we have a school club for it?

We should have a school club on it because:

- it is quite popular and many people would love to participate in such an activity
- 2. it encourages socialisation and encourages co-operative thinking
- it can have a positive impact on students while having fun
- 4. it can help people understand different perspectives and learn empathy of imaginative characters in a safe place.

What do you learn there/what sorts of skills do you strengthen through playing?

DND has a system using dice and maths to figure out the character traits and abilities.

It's fairly simple and would still help reinforce maths as the game can be complicated as much as the players wish it to be.

DND can help people act out a character and use it as a safe place to learn social and emotional skills as well as sympathy, storytelling, a stronger imagination and creativity. DND can strengthen as many skills as players would like to.

You could make art of characters, have engaging scenes of a glorious battle

between
dragons and
your party of
merry
adventurers
clad in shining
armour but also
emotional scenes.

It entirely depends on the comfortability and wants of the players combined.

Why do you like it? What has been your favourite part? How have you found it so far?

I like it because I can hear and see the smiles of my friends as they engage in this imaginative land and invest so much on it despite it being entirely fictional. It brings everyone together and strengthens emotional bonds outside the game.

My favourite part was being swarmed by friendly kobolds (small reptilian humanoids with long tails) surrounding us and taking interest in our party of adventurers.

My favourite kobold is Mumpo and I'm already emotionally invested in him.

I've found it wonderful and enjoyable. It is fulfilling the only rule required; having fun, of which I have had plenty.

Buddha - year 11

Year 11

Year 11 students have been working hard trying to get ready for their final GCSE. They have successfully participated in after school revision corridors and PPE exams. By doing this it has made them realise and prepare for what lies ahead of them in June. Results of these will be shared in the coming weeks.

The Senior Student Leadership Group (SSLG) has also participated in number of meetings where they have been able

to discuss and make suggestions of what changes they would like to make. The charity leaders will be running a Valentine's bake sale on Thursday 8 February to raise money for the three house charities as well as raising funds towards a Prom fund. The mentoring ambassador leads have helped to coordinate and launch peer mentoring between Y10 and Y7 students. The sports leads have also been involved with the younger year groups, meeting with the Y10 and Y9 house representatives to discuss

interhouse sports competitions, with a basketball competition to come next half term. School council has also successfully launched with strong

support from the head students and school council leads and the first lot of suggested changes have been presented to the Staff Senior Leadership Team to consider. It has

been great to see them working with their peers and staff team, making sure their voices are heard.

Mr Gaddu



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**













Exams

PPEs are possibly one of the most stressful times in the life of an Exams Officer! These exams are not only useful to the students - who through them are able to identify gaps in their learning - but they are essential to the Exams Officer and their invigilation team in ensuring that the processes and procedures for running exams are smooth and well-practiced. This means that when it comes to the real thing, everything goes well and we don't fall foul of any JCQ regulations.

The students did, on the whole, behave really well in PPE2 – however, there are still some areas that need tightening up on! I am sure they get fed up of me going on about what they can and can't have in an exam, but it really is so important. If an exam begins and they are found to have unauthorised items in their possession, then the exam board could well zero mark that paper. If your qualification is only 2 equally-weighted exams and you score 0 on one paper, that is a big hill to climb for the other paper as you can well imagine!

Therefore, please remind your children sitting exams that they mustn't have the

following items in their possession in an exam room;

- Mobile phone
- · Watch of any kind
- · Headphones of any description
- Notes, papers, sweets, drinks that aren't water
- · Lip gloss, compacts, brushes/combs

Yes I know some of these seem obvious but you would be amazed at what we have to remove from their possession!

This list is not exhaustive, there really should be no need for them to have anything except the list below with them – and they shouldn't be reaching into pockets for anything during exams – we have tissues in the hall if they need to blow their nose!

What should they have with them:

- Black biros (more than one in case it runs out)
- Compass, Protractor, Set Square, Ruler (NOT in a tin)
- Pencils
- Highlighters can be useful for highlighting passages in source

- material, but they MUST NOT use them in their answers
- Calculator unless it is a non-calculator paper of course! (but leave the lid at home)

All of this should be in a CLEAR plastic pencil case with NO WRITING ON

Ideally they would also have a water bottle with them – this needs to be transparent, with label removed and contain only water. It is very hard to find reusable water bottles that fulfil the JCQ requirements so my advice would be for them to use a disposable bottle please – they can still be washed and reused a few times, so not too environmentally-unfriendly!

Your support in ensuring that your child turns up for their exams in the summer with the correct equipment needed for that exam and ON TIME will be very much appreciated. More information will be sent out by letter nearer the time regarding illness.

The generic timetable for our school can be found here. Please note that all students must be available UP TO AND INCLUDING the contingency date of Wednesday 28 June – regardless of when their last exam is.

Mrs Gale





The STEM club is for KS3 students & will launch on Wednesday 1st March 2023. It will continue to run every Wednesday, from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm in Room 212.





The STEM Club will include a mixture of hands-on experiments, creative activities and using Lego to develop your understanding of the challenges humans face when exploring space!.







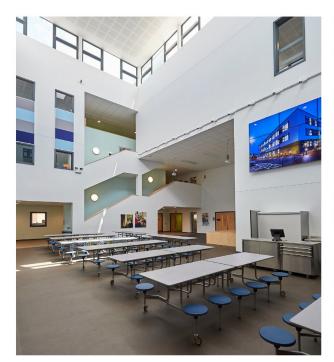




At Maiden Erlegh School In Reading we pride ourselves on a happy, safe, friendly and fun environment for all our students to learn in. We have our amazing team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors on hand to offer support, guidance, and mentoring programmes to students on a 1-2-1 basis who may have experienced bullying throughout their learning journey.











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



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Day	Activity	Time	Staff	Area
Monday	Homework Club	3.15pm - 3.55pm	Mr Dawson & Miss Hamed	21B
	Piano lessons with Berkshire Maestros*	Booking only	External coach	044
Won	Scripted exam performance rehearsals	3:15pm-4:15pm	Mrs Tolman/ Mr Sparks	Drama studio
	Homework Club	3.15pm - 3.55pm	Mr Dawson & Miss Hamed	21B
	Debating Club	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Thompson-Delpleche	107
	Library drop in session	3:15-4pm	Miss Newman	111
Tuesday	Triple/ Higher Combined Chemistry (Year 11)	3:15pm - 4pm	Science dept	216/213
les.	Maths homework drop-in (All Years)	3:15pm - 3:30pm	Maths department	119
-	School Production Rehearsals	3:15pm - 4pm	Mr Butchers/ Mrs Tolman/ Mr Sparks	Drama studio
	Scripted exam performance rehearsals	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Tolman/ Mr Sparks	Drama studio
	Be Kind club (the LGBTQ+ club) (Week 1)	3:15	Ms Lawson-Smith/Mrs Lenox	room 044
	Be Kind club (the LGBTQ+ club) Week 2	Snack 1 12:35-1:05	Ms Lawson-Smith/Mrs Lenox	Meeting room 3
	Homework Club	3.15pm - 3.55pm	Mr Dawson & Miss Hamed	21B
	School Band	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mr Butchers	044
	Maths homework drop-in (All Years)	3:15pm - 3:30pm	Maths department	119
_	Business & Economics Study Club (invite only)	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Nave/ Ms Headley	208
8	Dungeons & Dragons	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Lenox	211/213
Wednesday	BBC Schools Report	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Tolman	Drama Studio
%	Paint Your Story	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Ali	108
_	Scripted exam performance rehearsals	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Tolman/ Mr Sparks	Drama studio
	Foundation Chemistry Revision (Year 11)	3:15pm-4pm	Science dept	213/216
	Chess Club (week 2)	3:15-4pm	Ms Edwards	English dept
	Portfolio catch up (Year 9, 10, 11 Art/Photography)	3:15pm-4:15pm	Mr Bish	Art dept
	Homework Club	3.15pm - 3.55pm	Mr Dawson & Miss Hamed	21B
	Library drop in session	3.15- 4pm	Miss Newman	111
اج ا	Cipher Challenge (Silver Programme only)	3:15pm - 4:15pm Week 2	Mrs Jay & Miss Solomon	123
Thursday	Combined Cadet Force	3:30pm - 5pm	Mr Greener and external coach	MUGA
5	Maths homework drop-in (All Years)	3:15pm - 3:30pm	Maths department	119
F [School Production Rehearsals	3:15pm - 4pm	Mr Butchers/ Mrs Tolman/ Mr Sparks	Drama studio
	Scripted exam performance rehearsals	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Tolman/ Mr Sparks	Drama studio
	Portfolio catch up (Year 9, 10, 11 Art/Photography)	3:15pm-4:15pm	Mr Bish	Art dept
8	Guitar and Drum lessons with Berkshire Maestros*	Bookings only	External coach	044
Friday	So, you want to be a Doctor?	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Rogeon	216
<u> </u>	Choir	3:15pm-3:45pm	Mr Butchers	044
	Scripted exam performance rehearsals	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Mrs Tolman/ Mr Sparks	Drama studio





Sports Extra Curricular Activities

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mr Hibbins	GCSE PE revision 118	5-aside football			Fitness — Sports Hall
Miss Phillips	Year 7, 8 & 9 Netball club – Sports Hall & MUGA GCSE PE revision 118		Touch Rugby – All years - Field	Year 11 Netball fixtures – Sports Hall	
Mrs Roberts	Year 7, 8 & 9 Netball club – Sports Hall & MUGA GCSE PE revision 118	Year 10 Netball fixtures – Sports Hall			Volleyball – Sports Hall
Mr Hood/Mr Graham/ External			Boxing – Sports Hall	CCF – MUGA	

Clubs in bold are run by external agencies and have a cost attached to them. These are not run by or organised by the PE department.



TERM DATES		
Spring	3 January - 10 February 2023	
	20 February - 31 March 2023	
CPD Day	10 February 2023	





Click on the ParentPay logo to login and register your account.



MCAS Please contact us at
MERoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
for support.