

# ThePulse

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 the Easter edition of the Pulse!

There's been a huge amount of great work taking place in our school this half term, so much to celebrate, with our amazing staff creating so many opportunities for our students; these experiences will live long in their memory.

On Wednesday of last week, our X Factory cast performed to Alfred Sutton's Year 5 in the morning before performing to parents and family members later that afternoon. I was lucky enough to watch both performances, the Alfred Sutton students loved it, they were thoroughly entertained and left MER with a really positive experience of our school and the opportunities that they might also have should they choose to come here in future. Both performances were good, but the progress made between the first and second showing (to families) was exponential! It's always so enlightening and rewarding to see our students thrive in a different context, this time on the stage, some of whom you would never have thought would have the confidence to perform in front of so many people. Thank you to Mr Butchers and Mr Sparks for the weeks and months of rehearsals it has taken to put this together, I know they were really pleased with the end result and rightly proud of all of the students involved.

We also recently celebrated the success of over 125 KS3&4 students, who were rewarded for their consistent achievements and for their exemplary role modelling of the MER Way by being invited to a celebration event in the hall, led by the Head of Year team. It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces in the hall, full of the pride and joy they all have in being part of our school.

Last week I received the final report from the Challenge Partners organisation following their visit to review MER in late February. The overall feedback was unequivocally positive, and the school was seen as effective in all areas. Having several external

school leaders visit us, and observe our school in action over three days, was an excellent opportunity to receive some external feedback and to reflect on everything we do. The feedback we received was a validation of the excellent work that we do; this was not only very reassuring, but also served to confirm much of what we already know about our school. There are, of course, areas for improvement, and we are already working on these in our continuous drive to improve as a school.

I am delighted to announce that our newly formed PTA have now officially opened up our very own MER Uniform swap scheme! This is mainly for school logo items – blazers, PE shirts and ties. We will issue a list of available items and sizes after Easter.

The following charges will apply, and these will need to be settled in cash:

**Blazers - £5.** This will be free of charge if a clean, useable blazer is provided in a different size;

**PE tops - £3** – again, free of charge if a clean, useable top is provided in a different size;

**Jumpers - £3** - free of charge if a clean, useable jumper is provided in a different size;

Ties - £1.

Please note that these items are provided in used condition. Items can be requested by emailing MERPta@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Friday 31st March will be the end of the spring term at MER. We will have a condensed day on Friday, with shorter lessons and a slightly earlier finish after our final whole school assembly. Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to staff who are moving on to pastures new after the Easter holiday; Mr Gaddu, Head of Year 11, is moving closer to his home and family and taking up a new

CALENDAR		
3 April - 14 April	HALF TERM	
DofE Bronze Practice Weekend	29-30 April	
DofE Silver Practice Weekend	19-21 May	

post at as a Health and Social Care teacher. Katie Phillips is moving out of the teaching profession and taking up a new role working for the Youth Sports Trust. Jane Batts also leaves us after 11 years, during which time she has undertaken a number of different roles as a member of our support staff team. Finally, we say goodbye to Asha Rajput who will be joining Reading University.

The Easter holiday will provide some muchneeded rest and recovery time for our students and for our staff. This time will also provide Year 11 with the opportunity to double down on their revision and exam preparation, when they return from their Easter break the first GCSE exam will only be 4 weeks away. Year 10 will sit their Religious Studies GCSE exam on Monday 15th May, so Easter revision will also be a very wise move.

It just leaves me to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for supporting your children to attend school; every day; on time; looking smart and being ready to learn. Attendance to school is so important, unsurprisingly, there is a direct correlation between exam success and attendance to school, the more often children are in lessons learning, the greater their chances of understanding, remembering, and applying their knowledge when it counts. So, please enjoy the Easter break, I hope you and your children stay safe and have fun and we look forward to welcoming our students back to MER for the summer term, which begins on Monday 17th April.

Will Graham





### Baylab - Plants, farming and feeding 10 billion workshop

This February, a group of 28 year 10 geography students attended a full day workshop at Bayer's Baylab facilities in Green Park. The workshop integrated lots of key cross-curricular themes, linking photosynthesis and factors affecting food security from biology, with resource resilience from geography.

The workshops were very hands on, with lots of practical activities for students to complete in groups. They brought the importance of plants to life for students by demonstrating how production can be challenged and the problems that this can create.

Additionally, the day enabled students to see inside the facilities of an international company with a local site. This raised awareness of a range of opportunities that may arise on their



doorstep, including scientific, technical, marketing, and administrative roles.

Special thanks go to Dr Davies, who went over above to make the trip possible, by leading a group on her day off!

Mrs Rogeon



### Year 7

Year 7 have had a great end to the 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Maiden Erlegh School in Reading students. A huge well done to Sajawal, Aeiza, Mahamadou and Louis for all reaching over 700 DREAM points – a fabulous achievement! I would also like to extend my congratulations to the 25 students who have been invited to the reward event for having the top DREAM points and great attendance.

Other highlights for me this term have been seeing so many students getting involved in extra-curricular activities, hearing about wonderful events that have happened outside of school such as ballroom dancing competitions, football matches, chess games and seeing so many enthusiastic, hardworking students in their lessons.

Keep up the hard work Year 7! Mrs Ryan

### Year 8

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

This has been an exciting term with the options process. You have been lucky to experience a taster session in the GCSE subjects, as well as options evening and an assembly. We have <u>ALL</u> completed and handed in our options form.

Now it is a waiting game to see if you get the options you have picked

Until then we need to continue with our KS3 journey, so that means we continue to fully engage with ALL of our lessons and get every little bit of learning we can.

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



### So you want to be a doctor

In 'So you want to be a Doctor' this term we have been working on Bronze CREST award projects. Students have chosen their own projects related to health or medicine. These include some communication projects that focus on raising awareness about various medical conditions and ways in which family members can provide appropriate support. Others have involved

investigations, such as comparing techniques for collecting fingerprints and comparing rehydration solutions. The fingerprint investigations included the use of the 'iodine hand technique' as demonstrated by our keen year 7s in this photo! Many thanks to Mr Fowler and Miss Studley for supporting us with this activity!



#### **Reward Event**

Congratulations to the following students whose fantastic achievements this academic year so far will be celebrated at an end of term Rewards Evening.

•		
YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
Sajawal	Akindu Iraj	
Aeiza	Palbar	Aysha
Mahamadou	Sinica	Anusha
Louis	Sukhprem	Naomi
Raniyah	Bridget	Heyvis
Deborah	Neo	Charlize
Ali	Siya Sachin	Annali
Ajmi	Bilal	Tawheed
Emmanuel	Harsh	Laura
Marvin	Grace	Aleena
Lana	Julia	Lama
Kacper	Shivi	Lilia
Tanveer	Yusuf	Mokshita
Jyena	Sammi	Saisri
Japkiran	Samuel	Simarpreet
Hector	Lily	Eleeza
Muadh	Aleesha	Lena
Joel	Angelo	Nabeel
Aziah	Ameen	Srilakshmi
Cooper	Sukh	Daniel
Johnson	Eleazar	Benjamin
Rajveer	Pia	Joshita
Amy	Aaliyah	Xenam
Nirvik	Simba	Mysha
Yosif	Zarnain	Nenyasha
		Kavya

#### **YEAR 10** YEAR 11 Nainika Johnnita Dara Liam Polina Ryan Abdullah Sehresh Nihal Rahiba Jewel Manu Nicole Nihma Isra Lovina Takira Albie Harrison Harris Sonia Ghazaal Marika Hasini Tom Iva Zohaib Praneeta Sian Shine Kasutubhi Mazia Manaam Louis Rayhan Halima Jasraj Aparajita Oskar Liljana Selina Fatoumata Oscar Zain Akos

Chelsea

## Reading Ambassadors' Recommended Reads

The Infinity Files: Ash dreams of being a starfighter pilot, but when she crashes out of her final test, she somehow lands in the most powerful job in the universe. As guardian of the 'Infinity Files',

she must secretly planet -hop through the galaxies, stealing or returning treasures that have the power to stop wars...or start them.

This book is highly recommended

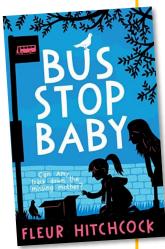


for 11–13-year-olds who like science fiction, space and fantasy. It was so immersive. Through Ash, it was easy to fall in love both with the universe as we might know it, and every possible universe beyond.

**Bus Stop Baby:** On her way home from school, 13-year-old Amy finds a newborn baby abandoned at the village

bus stop.
Amy tries to fix the situation by finding the baby's mother. But as Amy searches, she uncovers another story, a secret even closer to home.

A book with a warm heart



and a positive message at its core. It is also a thought-provoking story exploring the complexities of family, friends and making difficult choices. Do you enjoy mystery and suspense? Then this is the book for you! 4 out of 5 stars

**Akindu G,** for The Reading Ambassadors



# 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** 













# **English and Art Mural Competition**

Over 70 entries were submitted in the English and Art Mural Competition. This was a highly competitive competition, with

mural on the wall in our new school library. Our winner, Samuel S from 8P2, has started painting the mural with members of



#### Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All





The MER Debate Club is the brainchild of Mrs Thompson Delpleche, teacher of English. The club made its debut in September 2022 and has become the most popular club in the school across all year groups. This is evident in the attendance of students and their keen interest to participate; to share and to listen. One of the aims of the debate club is to give students a voice to express themselves and since the birth of the club, students have been able to voice their opinions in a constructive way.

#### Is DNA evidence reliable enough?

On 14th March, 2023, in recognising British Science Week, the Science Department joined the MER Debate Club to witness a phenomenal courtroom scene where Mr. DNA Evidence was put on trial. Members of staff were invited to view the amazing work put forward by the debate club.

Room 107 came alive last Tuesday afternoon with a real courtroom setting

where two teams presented their arguments before The Hon, Judge Omar Delpleche, in their quest to gain victory on the topic, "Is DNA Testing Reliable Enough?"

The team who was against the topic was narrowly edged out of

winning this case by their fellow opponents who presented sufficient evidence to exonerate Mr DNA, proving that DNA testing is indeed reliable enough.

The champion team in the courtroom was made up of: Yan - Psychologist, Joshita - Panaya (Scene of Crime Officer), Aadhya - 16-year-old student and Dara - Erin (Juror).

They defeated the opposition: Sonia - Medical Statistician, Buddha - Barrister, Hasini - Fingerprint Expert and Sanjana - 20-year-old identical twin.

After each team was given a chance to execute their arguments, the jury and team of judges met in the Judge's chamber to arrive at a verdict. When the jury delivered the verdict there were lots of smiles around the courtroom. Mr DNA Evidence's reliable character was once again restored after his innocence was tried and proven in the courtroom.

The students really had a spectacular time preparing their speeches and making their oral presentations. They are looking forward to the next debate club meeting and the next debating event.

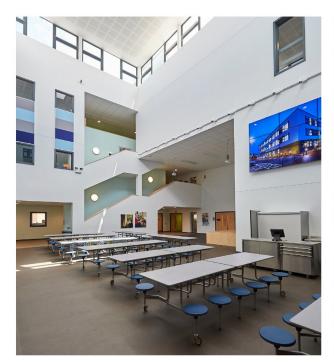
The evening concluded with all participants receiving a certificate of participation and medal. The winning team also received a certificate of excellence and a trophy.

Awards were distributed with the help of teachers from the Science Department: Mrs Rogeon, Dr Diriyai and Mr James.

As our club continues to provide enrichment activities for our students, I quote award-winning author, Frank Sonnenberg, "Free speech and debate are essential in our search for truth."

Mrs Thompson-Delpleche









**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



### Year 10

The Year 10 cohort are working hard in preparation for their upcoming PPE examinations, with many students designing their own resources to secure the best grades possible.

Careers meetings have begun for the students too, which are really helping them to think about the steps they need to take for the journey ahead. Mrs Finlason will meet with every student over the coming term to ensure they have a detailed plan in place, ready for applications early next year. A special shout out this term goes to the

following, whose successes will be celebrated in our end of term Rewards Evening:



Nainika	10P2
Dara	10P2
Ryan	10P2
Abdullah	10P1
Nihal	10P1
Jewel	10P1
Nicole	10P1
Isra	10T1
Takira	10T1
Harrison	10T1
Sonia	10T2:
Hasini	10T2:
Tom	10T2:
Zohaib	10T2:
Kasutubhi	10T2:
Mazia	10G2
Louis	10G2
Halima	10G2
Aparajita	10G1
Liljana	10G1
Fatoumata	10G1

Mrs Cotton

# MEIP award and presentation evening 28th February 2023



A fantastic event was held at the beginning of this half term as parents, students and teachers were invited to hear from our 13 students who completed their Maiden Erlegh Independent Project 2022. This project runs each year and is designed to allow students to research and investigate a topic of interest to them. The students showcased their outstanding work on the

award evening, a sample of which can be seen below. The standard this year was higher than ever and 2 students gained the Gold Award for their projects. The MEIP is open to students from Y7-Y9 and is run in the summer half term, so look out for it being advertised in June for your child to get involved.

Mr Tomsett







Will genetic engineering have an impact on our society?

**The Black market** 

THE MALE GAZE

First person view racing drones Silver Programme Session

A big thanks to Dr Lang, a parent of a student at the school, who ran a session on First Person View Racing Drones much to the delight of our Y7 and Y8 Silver Programme students. Highlights included watching a Racing Drone being flown around room 204 with students able to see what Dr Lang was viewing through his headset. Images below: the type of drone flown, and two screenshots from the drone that was flown. *Mr Tomsett* 



As part of our work on student voice we run a school council. Each tutor group in year 7-10 vote for a member of their tutor group to represent them, while year 11 are represented by the senior student leadership group. This year a key theme being fed back by students was a desire for a prayer room within the school. This has historically been very difficult due to limited space in the building, so we have been running a trial during the holy month of Ramadan to allow for a prayer area during lunch break. After some



initial trial and error, this has been well received by the students. We will assess what we have provided at the end of Ramadan so we can learn from this and dependent on this we will be working on a plan to have a multi-faith religious space available to students during break and lunch time going forward.

Mr Tomsett



10-19 March 2023

# Design a Lab Coat Competition

As part of science week, students were invited to enter the Baylab design a lab coat challenge. Our two winners, who will be entered into the national competition are:

- 1) **Olivia 7G2** 30 DREAM points and a prize to collect from Science department
- 2) **Intsham 7G2** 20 DREAM points and a prize to collect from the Science department







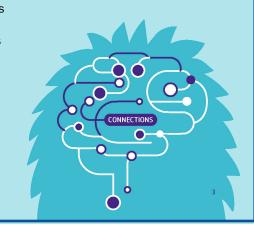
# Science Doors Science Week Competition

The Science Department set our students a challenge – to use our newly decorated Science doors to complete and compete in a Science Quiz. The Science rooms are now named after scientists from a variety of different

backgrounds. The event was organised by Miss Studley, who decorated all the doors and put together the quiz questions.

#### Winner

**Deborah 7G1** 30 DREAM points and a prize collected from Mr James



## Design & Technology

#### **Termly FOOD JOURNAL - January to March**

It has been another exciting busy time in Food this term. All students have produced wonderful, creative practical work across all year groups.

#### **Year 7: Food Technology**

Our Year 7 students finished off their Food experience by successfully demonstrating a classic chicken/ vegetable curry. For



some students this allowed them to explore the use of spices to enhance the flavours/heat of the dish.



#### Year 8: Food **Technology**

Our Year 8 students finished their Food experience by modifying/ adapting a savoury mince recipe. All students had the opportunity to develop/ adjust flavours, tastes and appearance using a chosen mince or alternative.





#### **Year 9: GCSE Food Preparation** & Nutrition - Edugas

Our Year 9 students continue to learn about food and building upon their practical skills in Food. The range of dishes have been about exploring the importance/uses of eggs. All students are recognising the need to develop and demonstrate an individual flare for flavours, textures and restaurant style presentation

techniques.







#### The practical opportunities have included:

- · meatballs and tomato sauce
- Jamie Oliver Eggs Skills Challenge
- Easter chocolate egg tart

Next term, look

forward to developing a range of sweet and savoury practical







Our Year 10 students continue to develop their practical skills. The range of dishes have given students choices when exploring food flavours, tastes and restaurant style presentation. The focus has been linked to food commodities cereals, meat and fish.

#### The practical opportunities have included:

- · Tomato and courgette Risotto
- Spring rolls with sweet chilli or soya sauce
- · Butterfly chicken with homemade sauce
- · Fish cakes or fish finger with homemade tartare



Next term, look forward to practical work linked to mock NEA 2: Food Preparation Assignment - Trial dishes and 3 final dishes with accompaniment/ sides



#### Y11: GCSE Food **Preparation & Nutrition** -Edugas

For our Year 11 students this has been a significant term ensuring they complete the coursework elements of this GCSE course focusing on NEA2 **Food Preparation** assignment (GCSE coursework 35%). All practical work has been linked to







#### The practical opportunities have included:

- NEA2: Trial dishes (x4) linked to assignment
- NEA2: Final Practical menu (x3 dishes with accompaniments/



sides) in 3 hours linked to assignment.

# Design & Technology

#### **Termly TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL - January to March**

#### Year 7

The year 7s produced mechanical toys and learned about new materials and how to use new tools and equipment in the school workshop.







#### Year 8

The year 8s used CAD to create designs and a mould using 2D design. The laser cutter was then used to cut out their acrylic designs and MDF moulds. They then used the pewter casting process to create their products.











#### Year 9

The year 9s learned about

electronic components and how to solder, they then built a casing to house the amplifier circuit they had created.

Students have been creating designs for sandwich boxes, with consideration given to the Food Standards Agency. Product boxes showed ingredients, contact details and preparation instructions, storage advice, nutrition and more.

The brief asked for a design that could be used in the school canteen, and reflected MER students as diverse and ambitious.. once fuelled and ready!

#### Year 10

The year 10s have been developing their soldering and workshop skills by developing a desk top lamp from materials and equipment available to them in the school workshop. Lots of different skills and techniques have been developed.









Year 9 students are striving forward and looking positively to the future. As a year group – they have made me really proud.

TUTOR GROUP 9 G1 9 G2 9 P1 9P2 9 T1 9 T2	TOTAL POINTS 8458 10411 9855 8311 9499 9123	P2 Laura Deven Annali T1 Lama Manu Xnam	382 486 397 484 494 491
Congratulat top 3 DREA each tutor g G1 Yaw Naomi Heyvis	MERS in	T2 Isa Harry Srilakshmi 9G1 9G2	462 480 487 <b>1191</b> <b>1427</b>
G2 Laura Lilia Mokshita P1	527 496 674	9P1 9P2 9T1 9T2	1308 1167 1357 1157
Suman Isa M Srikrishna	458 545 508	RESPECT FOR EXCELLENCE IN CO. ATTITUDE FOR S. MATURITY IN OUR	OTHERS OUR WORK

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* 

### **Year 11**

It's been a busy term trying to get Year 11 ready for their end of year exams. Students have been working hard to complete coursework and brush up on their exam skills, both during school hours and at home. With all of this hard work and effort, I am sure that they will achieve an outstanding set of results and wish them the very best of luck as I too, take on my next adventure. I will be leaving the Trust at the end of this term to begin pastures new, knowing that I am leaving the cohort in a fantastic position with bright futures ahead. I am proud to have been able to support them on their journey in Year 11, and know that great things await every one of them.

Mr Gaddu



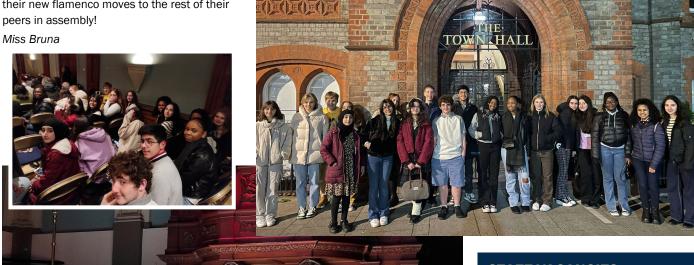
The Art of Believing – Flamenco show trip 10th March

You will remember that back in September we had some visitors from Spain as part of our Spanish Integration Project. We hosted 10 Spanish students in MER for 3 weeks and they were buddied with some of our students. As a reward for their hard work in September, the buddies attended 'The Art of Believing', a renowned Flamenco show in the wonderful concert hall inside Reading Town Hall. Prodigious guitarist Daniel Martínez and his team put on an incredible show and it was fantastic to see our students amazed by the Spanish traditional music and dances. We all had a fantastic time and our students made us incredibly proud by embodying the MER way and representing our school with impeccable behaviour and manners in the concert hall. What a

shame none of them were bold enough to show their new flamenco moves to the rest of their

Miss Bruna





#### STAFF VACANCIES

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





TERM DATES	
Summer	17 April - 26 May 2023
	4 June - 21 July 2023



AFTER ASCHOOL



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

**CPD Day** 



1 & 8 May 2023

30 June 2023

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