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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Spring has finally "sprung", and we are all very much looking forward to a well-earned Easter break.

As ever, it has been an action packed six weeks at MER, as you will read in this edition of the Pulse, there has been a huge variety of curricular and enrichment activity taking place across the school this half term.

As a school we continually strive to encourage every student to "Aim High"; our teachers work tirelessly to provide the very best learning experience for our students. Thank you to Curriculum Leaders and their teams for all the planning, preparation and assessments that have been undertaken this term; thank you also for their time and commitment given to meeting with parents and carers to ensure that communication between school and home is consistent and supportive. As we move inexorably towards the summer term and exams season, our focus inevitably sharpens on Year 11, with the last few weeks back after Easter to make the final push towards their peak performance in May and June. Year 10 will also be working hard over the Easter break in preparation for their PPE exams and, not long after, their final Religious Studies GCSE exam.

In this edition you will see many examples of opportunities students have had to "Aim High" and "Work Together" this term: British Science Week, World Book Day, the UKMT Maths Challenge and the Maiden Erlegh Independent Research project, just some of the wonderful enrichment experiences that have been afforded to students in Years 7 to 11. Our focus on a strong personal development curriculum has been exemplified this term with the presentations on Drugs and Exploitation and also, on alcohol awareness; educating our young people to be responsible and make mature and informed choices in their lives, is equally important to the academic education they receive.

We talk a lot about the MER DREAM (Determination, Respect, Excellence, Attitude and



Maturity), these values are the foundations that our school are built upon. It is so heartening to read about the positive DREAM points that year groups have accumulated this year to date, with Year 8 achieving a staggering 80,000 points to date. We look forward to July 18th and our inaugural MER Awards Evening, where we will take the opportunity to recognise those students who have made outstanding progress and achievement across the year.

Finally, one of the very special features of our community is our diversity; it has been wonderful to witness the tolerance and respect shown during the Holy month of Ramadan at MER. Our Student Leadership Team have created an environment in the school hall which allows those who wish to pray, to do so in relative privacy. The prayer space created has been very popular with students, they have, in the main, supervised each other, and conducted themselves with maturity and respect; I can't think of a better illustration of how our community continues to be "Inclusive", which is of course, another Trust value which is so important to our school.

Thank you to all of our support staff for the work they do, day in and day out, to maintain our inclusive and child focused ethos so strong; your contribution to our students and our community is greatly appreciated.

We hope that staff and students find some time to rest and recuperate during the holiday and that the weather is kind to us all.

Wishing staff, students, parents and carers, a happy and healthy Easter!



CALENDAR

29th March to 15th April	Half Term Break
24th April	Reading Youth Council
25th April	Year 7 & 8 UKMT Junior Maths Challenge
22nd April to 3rd May	Year 10 PPEs
6th May	Bank Holiday
8th May	School Production of Aladdin



We are having a big push on correct uniform currently so please do remember that Stevenson's now has a shop presence in Chatham Place, Reading where you can go to purchase MER branded items. The shop is open 9am-5pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat.

We will be opening a Second Hand Shop after the Easter Holidays on a **Monday from 3:10-4:10pm** at school which students/parents can attend to purchase items (cash only). We do also have brand new shirts and some trousers/skirts for sale. However, in order to make this a success, we do need donations of MER branded items, **washed and in good condition** please. Prior to this opening, if you require uniform, please email <u>meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org</u> to see if we have what you need.

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All



To celebrate British science week 2024, we have been doing activities across the school. Our year 7's and 8's have been taking part in the Baylab Lab coat competition, all of the designs will be sent off the Baylab to be entered in their national competition as well as the Science departments own competition. After many amazing entries we found 6 winners from the science department's competition.

Our Yr. 9's and 10's have been looking into the history of the universe, working in groups to create timelines of the universe from the beginning until now as well as individually creating a small timeline of their own lives. We also have had 6 very enthusiastic science ambassadors from Yr.10: Jariece and Ganesh, Laura and Sophie, Heyvis and Tawheed. Our science ambassadors went into almost all of the Yr. 7 and 8 science lessons to do some small and fun science demonstrations and explain what they were doing to help create excitement and



intrigue into science. The Yr. 10s spent 2 days after school working on their presentation and practicing the demos, Jariece and Ganesh showed off the Whoosh bottle demo and the Elephants toothpaste demo as well as successfully explaining what was causing the reactions that we could see. Heyvis and Tawheed showed the classes the crushing can demo and the Elephants toothpaste while sharing their knowledge by answering questions other students asked them, while Laura and Sophie did the crushing can and Elephants' toothpaste demos while expertly engaging the classes. They delt with the few bumps in the road when some of their demos didn't work very well by explaining why they didn't work and what should have happened. All our science ambassadors have created a real excitement about science throughout the younger years. We are incredibly proud of all the effort and time they have put into this, they have done an amazing job, and we can't thank them enough. *Mr Carr & Miss Studley*







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Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All



Year 9 Animal Farm

A good example of students understanding the text and being able to illustrate this knowledge. A prize story board on Animal Farm where the students are able to link the story to context.

Mrs Riaz



On the 19th of March, 6 students presented their posters and PowerPoint presentations as part of the Maiden Erlegh Independent Project, run by Mr Tomsett. The project teaches students key skills for their future universities and careers, which are quite hard to grasp at such a young age. Students are asked to research a question of their choice and produce a project portfolio containing a 1500 essay, production diaries, evaluation of resources and more. These are then marked and students receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate; this year we had 4 students receive gold and 2 students receive silver which is absolutely outstanding! The project requires a lot of dedication and is

not an easy task, the six students who completed have shown talent and bravery when presenting to parents, not to mention the time they have given across the summer holidays to finish it and achieve the certificates. Overall it was a knowledgeable evening as we had presentations on passwords, nutrition, climate change, mental health, mythical creatures, and the history of Japan. A big thank you to Mr Tomsett for running this project and giving his time to run sessions, and mark the all the projects, which I'm sure have been very helpful to all students who have participated. Shivi, year 9



MER were happy to celebrate World Book Day on 7th March by organising a 'Book Bin'. Over two mornings, our enthusiastic readers were encouraged to take away a book for free from the 'bin'. Study guides, fiction and non-fiction texts were all made available for students. All year groups found something they could appreciate from the selection. It was a delight to see that **11 boxes of books** were taken away for reading! *Mrs Lutton*





BE PART OF OUR GOVERNANCE TEAM OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Who are SAB Members?

School Advisory Boards (SABs) are crucial elements of our work with schools and communities.

SAB members are ambassadors of the school, engaging with stakeholders and ensuring the school is a safe and and happy place to learn and work.

The role description and person specification for School Advisory Board Members can be found on our website.

Our School Advisory Board

The SAB works closely with the Headteacher to provide support, challenge and a critical friendship in the context of the Trust's strategic vision and values and the school's culture.

SAB members also support the school by attending school events, providing support and encouragement to staff and pupils, developing links with the wider community and participating in panels for recruitment, exclusions, and admissions.

How can you get involved in a role?

We have a variety of School Advisory Board Member openings available across our schools in Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell. We are especially keen to hear from anyone who has an interest or experience within **Safeguarding and/or SEN** as we have vacancies for Link SAB Members covering these areas.

Experience of school governance or related fields would be helpful but is NOT essential as we would provide training.

Maiden Erlegh Trust Schools



Cranbury College



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



HamiltonSchool



MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE



MAIDEN ERLEGH



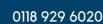
MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL IN READING



OAK TREE School







UKMT Maths Challenge

It has been a busy year so far for our mathematicians who have been taking advantage of the different maths challenges put on by the UKMT. So far this year we have had students take part in the Maths Olympiad for Girls, Intermediate Maths Challenge and the Pink Kangaroo follow on round. It was the first year of running the Maths Olympiad for Girls at MER and 4 of our students from year 11 took part with Anja Callisen and Tina Salehi achieving a Merit - a fantastic achievment. 64 students from Y9 - 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge with 11 students achieving a Bronze Certificate, 8 achieving a Silver Certificate and 3 achieving a Gold Certificate. Heyvis Chan got a high enough score to mean he qualified for the



Pink Kangaroo which is the next round of the Intermediate Maths Challenge - he sat this

on 21st March and we are waiting to get his results. Next up is the Junior Maths Challenge for Y7 and Y8 which is coming up in April where we will be sure to have

> many more success stories. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students who took part in any of the challenges, it is great to see so many students

wanting to challenge themselves and participating. Mrs Chakera



At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading we try to integrate opportunities for educational preventative work with our students to build their awareness. This term we have had some brilliant visiting assemblies

proud to offer at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading.

Miss Davies



Year 7

Year 7 have had a great end to the 2nd term as Maiden Erlegh School in Reading students. The year is absolutely flying by and I continue to be hugely impressed with how our students are settling into life at MER. A huge well done to Anmol, Kyle, Arnav and Emily for all reaching over 700 DREAM points - a fabulous achievement! If you are in the TOP 25 students for DREAM points and great attendance - watch out for the rewards events after Easter. 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 dancing competitions, football matches, chess games and seeing so many enthusiastic, hardworking students in their lessons. Keep up the hard work Year 7 enjoy your break and let's get ready to smash the summer term.

Mr Carpenter



Year 10 have had a busy term and are working hard on preparing for their PPE exams which begin on the 22nd of April. They have done very well with their RE PPE exams previously and we know they will continue to maintain that high standard for their other exams. Students are looking forward to work experience placements in June and we have been lucky to get some very exciting placements for students to attend in June. Year 10 had a celebration breakfast with the HOY this term where the tutor team nominated students in year 10 who are always going above and beyond. The students and Mrs Langille enjoyed a lovely breakfast in the atrium with muffins and juice being provided. Year 10 Parents Evening took place on the 27th February, 2024 and had very good attendance with 77% parents in Year 10 joining us to discuss the hard work that Year 10 have been putting in. I know that staff were very positive following a lot of those conversations. Mrs Langille

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. In



February students rotated moving from DT workshop to to start their experience in Food.

The practical opportunities have included:

• 'Prep up your game' knife skills challenge, demonstrating cutting skills



using a sharp knife

• Pasta in a jar - cooking pasta 'al dente' and layering ingredients

Next term, look forward to developing your practical skills in making chicken nuggets and savoury pizza pin wheels.

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. I was impressed with how the students took on this 'free choice' practical and for

some it was a great opportunity to show how skilled and creative they were in



producing a dish in one hour. In February students rotated moving from the DT workshop to continue their experience this year in Food.

The practical opportunities have included:

- Using pasta machine Homemade pasta (spaghetti or tagliatelle shaped pasta) with tomato sauce
- · Southern style chicken and sweet potato wedges - cooking and coating chicken breast accompanied by seasoned potato wedges

Next term. look forward to developing your practical



skills in making Macaroni Cheese and Savoury filled pasties.

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 consider restaurant style presentation





techniques/garnishes.

The practical opportunities have included:

- Meatballs and homemade tomato sauce
- Lemon Meringue Pie
- Easter Chocolate Egg Tart

Next term, look forward to developing a range of sweet and savoury practical skill/outcomes linked to the theory and commodities content.



Year 10: GCSE Food **Preparation & Nutrition –** Edugas

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/accompaniments. The focus has been linked to food commodities cereals, meat and fish.

The practical opportunities have included:



- · Spring rolls with sweet chilli or soya sauce
- · Butterfly chicken with homemade sauce
- Fish cakes with homemade tartare

Next term, look forward to practical work linked to mock NEA 2: Food Preparation Assignment - International Cuisine show casing 3 Trial dishes and 3 final dish outcomes with accompaniments/sides.

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

For our Year 11 students this has been a significant year ensuring they complete the coursework elements of this GCSE course focusing on NEA1 Food Investigation (GCSE coursework 15%) and NEA2 Food Preparation assignment (GCSE coursework 35%). All practical work and written portfolio work have been linked to chosen Assignment assessed brief.

The practical opportunities have included:

- NEA1: Investigation Assignment linked to Food Science of sugar in cakes
- NEA2: Trial dishes (x6) linked to their chose assignment - High Fibre dishes or Breakfast dishes

NEA2: Final Practical menu (x3 dishes with accompaniments/sides) in 3 hours linked to their chosen assignment brief

Design & Technology

Termly DESIGN TECH JOURNAL – January to March

Year 7 are creating a pine box, using lap joints, hinges and a clasp.

Year 8 are creating jewellery from Pewter and acrylic that has been designed on the computer. They then use the laser cutter to produce a mould before manufacturing the jewellery.

Year 9 have studied different design movements and have created model chairs and an amplifier circuit.

Year 10 have also worked on a lamp project studying the work of others as well as a timbers project, creating a desk tidy. They are currently working on a graphics and paper and boards/packaging project.

















Be a School Street marshal

Crescent Road is closed to traffic from 8.15–9am + 2.45–3.30pm, Monday to Friday, during term time.

Volunteers have been closing the road since February 2022, supported by the council. Around 2000 children attend three schools on Crescent Road and accidents were happening to pedestrians. It is now quieter, safer and calmer for everyone.

Marta O'Brien from the University of Reading measured air quality in the area. She said the School Street: '...helps reduce the air pollution, which is dangerous to health, especially to the younger population that is still growing and developing. A School Street scheme is also encouraging a healthier lifestyle and active travel.' She confirmed that the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) levels dropped on average by over 40% between January to March and April to May 2022.

Alfred Sutton school asked parents and carers what their thoughts were on the School Street and 98% responded that it made them feel 'good, positive, happy, relieved and safer'.

Volunteers receive training and generally do one shift (morning or afternoon) each week. More volunteers are needed to keep the scheme going. Chat to a marshal or email meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org to find out more.

DKI6 FX0

Year 8

Almost 80,000 DREAM points later, we have completed the first two terms of Year 8!

Year 8 have been working incredibly hard this term, and have taken everything in their stride. We had our assessment week/fortnight w/c 11th March, and the feedback I've has been that Year 8 really rose to the challenge, and there have been some exceptional pieces of work produced. Parents and carers can hear all about this success at the Parents information evening at the beginning of next term on 25th April. We look forward to speaking with you then.

Once again, the commitment and attendance at extra curricular activities has been wonderful. Football fixtures,



debating club, and the school production to name a few. We can't wait to see MER's production next term.

Well done year 8 for being superstars, and let's keep pushing the standard and keep ourselves on the top of the DREAM point leaderboard.

Miss Ryan

This poster was designed by Kasey, one of our Anti-Bullying ambassadors in Year 10, to highlight the importance of community and inclusion.

Kasey has also been surveying a small number of our community here at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading to see their views around these important areas – she surveyed a group of students and staff. Some key highlights from her findings were that 95% of students agree that MER is one of the most inclusive schools in Reading, and that 100% of students felt we are a diverse school. This survey also identified some areas for us to develop and investigate further as a school. This

First Aid Course

We have a number of First Aid Trained staff members in order to provide support and assistance for students, staff and visitors when they are on the school site. Last week, I went to complete my 3 day First Aid Training to enable me to be able to support at Student Services whenever necessary. It was a really interesting experience - we covered CPR, the recovery position, use of an AED device (defibrillator), heart attacks, strokes, allergic reactions, head injuries, bleeding, broken bones and much much more. I spent quite a lot of time bandaging pretend cuts and

practicing administering epipens.



It was an intensive 3 day experience and obviously I hope that I will only ever need to be using very basic First Aid going forward but it is good to feel confident in my abilities and knowledge should I have to deal with a more major incident. It must be remembered though, that our First Aid Trained staff are here to deal with and stabilise emergencies, we are not trained doctors/nurses. But you can feel confident that your child will be looked after appropriately whilst in our care.

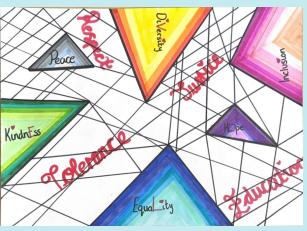
Year 9

Over half way through the year and Year 9 are living the DREAM and are looking positively to the future. As a year group – they are consistently doing the right thing day in day. 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. *Mr Sparks* **OVERALL DREAM POINTS: 61797**

Top Ten in year 9: Akindu, Harsh, Khush, Pia, Bilal, Nicholas, Taulant, Iqra, Mina, Sinica

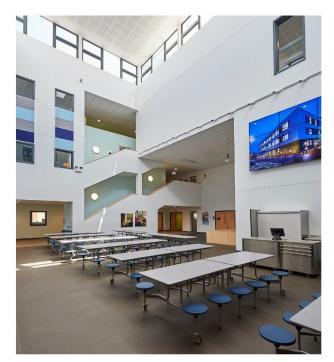
Top 3 in each tutor group:9G1: Krystian, Leah, Kate9G2: Khush, Nicolas, Taulant9P1: Akindu, Pia, Zarnain9P2: Harsh, Sinica, Daniel9T1: Bilal, Iqra, Edie9T2: Mina, Lily, VictorTutor group Leader Board:9G2: 132319G1: 106779P2: 102939P1: 98639T1: 93009T2: 8433

included ensuring all students feel involved and a small number felt that they are sometimes treated differently to others. This is something we will continue to strive to improve, working with



students and staff to ensure all our community feel equally supported and involved in our school family. The insights from Kasey's survey will feed into a larger, whole school, survey to gather further student voice.









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



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MAIDEN ERLEGH

DREAM POINTS





HOUSE TOTALS

	Term 1	Term 2	Totals So Far
Griffin	70198	37679	107877
Phoenix	60920	30971	91891
Triton	59133	30427	89560

TOP 20 IN THE SCHOOL

Anmol	7G2
Mekhi	7T2
Tyler	7G1
Trevor	8P1
Muhamadou Basir	7P2
Nurudin	7G2
Sajawal	8G2

Olivia	8G2
Arnav	7G2
Dobri	7T1
Akindu	9P1
Tinotenda	7G1
Deborah	8G1
Muadh	8G1

8P1
7G1
7G2
7T1
8G2
7G2

TOP 20 IN EACH YEAR GROUP

Anmol	7G2	Trevor	8P1	Akindu	9P1		Connor	10T1	Mazia	11G2
Mekhi	7T2	Sajawal	8G2	Таје	9P1		Joshita	10P2	Halima	11G2
Tyler	7G1	Olivia	8G2	Leah	9G1		Annali	10P2	Sabeeh	11G2
Muhamadou Booir	7P2	Deborah	8G1	Lily	9T2		Heyvis	10G1	Lewis	11G1
Basir Nurudin	7G2	Muadh	8G1	Mina	9T2		Charlize	10P2	Jamaal	11G2
	7G2	Pranay	8P1	Sinica	9P2		Obaid-Rahman	10P2	Amy	11G2
Arnav		Zainab	8G2	Ayan	9P1		Priya	10T1	Henry	11G2
Dobri	7T1	Lana	8P1	Pia	9P1		Lena	10P2	Daniella	11G1
Tinotenda	7G1	Johnson	8P1	Taulant	9G2		Carmine	10T1	Amabella	11G2
Peyton	7G1	Hammad	8G2	Harsh	9P2		Andrew	10P2	Laiba	11G2
Seancy	7G2	Louis	8G1	Adam	9T1		Ann	10P2	Manfred	11G2
Kamila	7T1		8T2	Krystian	9G1		Aahil	10P2	Klayton	11P2
Qasim	7G2	Abigail	-			-	Emerald	10P1	Ishika	11G2
Irfaan	7G2	Bryant	8G1	Eman	9G2	-	Alexander	10G2	Kripasen	11P2
Mateo	7G2	Lara	8G2	Pakiza	9G2	-	Helena	1002 10P2	Lindsey	11T2
Ayush	7T2	Jack	8G2	Khushwant	9G2	_		10P2	Ashton	11P2
Danilo	7P2	Titus	8G1	Victor	9T2	_	Iraj		Abner	11G2
Kyle	7G2	Nives	8G2	Neo	9P2		Siew Juan	10P2	Sainey	11G2
		Sharika	8P1	Oscar	9G1		Aarush	10T1	Emanuel	11G1
Jay	7T2	Modesire	8G1	Jeremy	9T2		Aleena	10P1	Lamin	1101 11P2
Bridget	7G1	Jyena	8G1	Julia	9G1		Nihal	10G2	Laiiiii	TTLT
Isabella	7G2			· ·	-	_				

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All



15 students from MER took the plunge of spending a week away from home, skiing in Italy. The students departed from Maiden Erlegh School on Saturday afternoon and we travelled through Europe through the early hours of the morning and eventually arrived in Italy on the Sunday. The students were welcomed with a warm meal and had the excitement of getting fitted into their ski gear. The students had 5 days on the slopes. There were many tears, tantrums and falls; however, our students

persevered and triumphed. By the end of the week all students had used the gondola and skied down the mountain. As well as skiing, the students had the opportunity to go caving and tubing and had a games and quiz night hosted by the Maiden Erlegh staff at the resort. All in all, it was a successful trip with the students learning new skills, making new friends and most importantly making new memories.

Mr Sparks and Miss Murphy



TERM DATES 2024

Carda of Tours	8th January - 9th February				
Spring Term	19th February - 28 March				
Summer Term	15th April - 24th May				
	3rd June - 23rd July				



Click here to find a list of after school clubs

Year 11

Year 11 have had a very eventful half term with their PPE examinations. results and Post 16 interviews. MER hosted interviews for Maiden Erlegh School and Bulmershe and both institutions said they were incredibly impressed with the conduct and aspirations of our students - it was fantastic to hear that the students were really showcasing what they are capable of. Many students are now in the process of reflecting on their results and planning their next steps. We wish them the very best in the forthcoming weeks and want to remind each of the Year 11s that we support you all the way.



Lost Property

Mrs Cotton

We get a huge amount of lost property coming to us on a daily basis. If items are named then Mrs Banga on Student Services does her best to get it back to the correct child, but this is not always possible. At the end of every term, she also lays the lost property in the atrium to enable students to see if their lost item is there. Please please please can you help us out my clearly naming your child's items. As you can imagine, with 900 students all wearing the same uniform, if something isn't named it is virtually impossible to identify who it belongs to - which is why so much goes missing. Naming items will help us

massively in combatting the amount of lost property we receive.



Click on envelope to view recent communications







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