



ThePulse

Aim high, Be inclusive, Work together

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

FROM THE DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



The last half term truly seems to have flown by, and once again staff and students are looking forward to a well-earned break.

The past few weeks have been full of lots of exciting activities across the school. From the school production of Aladdin to watching our year 11's celebrate on their last day in school.

Year 10 have shown great potential in their first formal set of PPEs and will now be receiving feedback from their teachers on these examinations. Using this feedback and moving forward in their learning is key to the progress they will make next year. They have already shown great determination in undertaking their RE GCSE and we look forward to seeing their results in the summer.

Year 11 have been modelling for the rest of the school how these exams should be tackled and they have been making us so proud of the way they have approached the exams so far. Their last day was a lovely chance to see them celebrating with each other. We look forward to celebrating with them further at Prom later next term. A big thank you goes out to Mrs Cotton who has worked tirelessly with the year group.

Another big thank you goes to the team that produced Aladdin. A great performance that was enjoyed by all that watched. The students once again

put on a magical performance and transported us to a whole new world!

As year 6 transition gets further underway, we keep our fingers crossed for a day of sunshine for our first ever Family BBQ to welcome the students and their families to MER. Later next term we can't wait to welcome our current MER families to the school to celebrate with us for our new annual event, MER Awards evening. We very much hope these new events will be with us for many years to come.

As we get ready for some well earned rest we would like to remind you that on our return we will maintain our high standards around uniform. As part of this the wearing of jewellery should be minimum with one pair of studs being worn in ears. There should be no visible necklaces or bracelets worn.

As we look ahead to the coming weeks we look forward to lots of opportunities to show our community what wonderful students we have. We know that in the next addition of the Pulse we will be reporting on lots more sporting achievements alongside non sporting events like the TEEN Tech Finals.

Sarah Gibbs
Deputy Headteacher

CALENDAR

27th May to 31st May	Half Term Break
Year 10 Geography Field Trip	12th & 14th June
Year 10 Work Experience	17th to 21st June
Year 9 Art Trip	25th June
Sports Day	28th June
Year 11 Prom	5th July
Zoology Day	12th July
Art Exhibition	17th July
Awards Evening	18th July

Non-uniform Day

Thank you for all your support in the last non-uniform day.

**We raised
an amazing
£749**

I am sure we could get another one in before the end of the year?!

Miss Hancock



Disney Aladdin JR.



Aladdin was a huge success. We performed it twice to two completely different audiences. The first show was to Alfred Sutton primary school, they laughed, clapped, and sang along. The evening performance was to the first ever sold-out audience! There was a huge applause at the end and throughout! The audience were laughing, crying, booing (for the evil Jafar) and even some of the crowd were singing along! We first started rehearsing before Christmas, so it has been lots of hard work, but most of all lots of fun! The collaboration from students and their tenacity was admirable.

Ms ZM, Director and Mr Butchers, Musical Director.



Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All





MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

THE DIANA AWARD

Anti Bullying Inclusion Badge Award

CONGRATULATIONS
to all Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Maiden Erleigh School in Reading have been awarded the Anti-Bullying Ambassador Inclusion Badge for showing:

- Commitment to celebrating everyone, through Cultural Day and Be Kind Club.
- Dedication to being an anti-racist school, through their Wear Red Day.
- Passion for using staff and student voice, through their survey.



Year 11 Final Day

The pressure is always on when it's time to do a speech - I've taught so many of you how to craft the perfect one. Truth be told, the wishes and advice I would give could never quite be put into words - or into a piece so short for me to share.

5 years; for five years that you've been walking through our doors. Faces have changed, people have changed but one constant is the path you have been taking, leading you to this moment.

Your journey hasn't been one purely about achieving the best grades, it's been one of discovery; finding people in your life who make every day better, finding who you are, finding who you want to be and what you want to achieve. School for many is a rollercoaster: a ride of many highs, but some enormous challenges. As you leave today, hold your head high and say, "I've made it." Where the ride goes as of now, you decide. Design yourself a route that follows a road full of adventure, ambition and excitement.

As you leave today, know you have - and always have had - our greatest support; we wish you nothing but success and happiness as you leave the nest here at MER without us by your side.

As you leave today, remember we are proud of you. You are part of our unique community and leave behind a legacy of compassion, resilience and courage.

I am proud to have been a part of your journey and can only now say: Congratulations Year 11; you are the leavers class of 2024 and with that, we say - goodbye

Mrs Cotton - goodbye speech to year 11





MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST

If you are interested in any of these roles, please email Maia Hill, Clerk to the Board of Trustees via governors@maidenerleghtrust.org

THERE ARE
TYPICALLY 3 SAB
MEETINGS PER
YEAR PLUS 3
TRAINING
SESSIONS TO
SUPPORT
DEVELOPMENT

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



www.maidenerleghtrust.org



0118 929 6020



governors@maidenerleghtrust.org

Year 7

We are fast approaching the end of the year (would you believe it) and what a year it has been for year 7. I am so proud of the start they have all made to secondary school and I am looking forward to seeing them finish the year off strong. Year 7 have continued to be an asset to the MER community. We have lots of exciting events coming up in the summer term, including our reward trip

for the students who demonstrate the MER way every day. Year 7 continue to lead the way in terms of attendance and DREAM points (let's keep smashing it out the park). Big shout out to 7G2 for having the most DREAM points – you are all amazing!

Mr Carpenter



Year 8

This has been a very quick half term and we are well on the road to the summer holidays.

We still have a lot to look forward to until we say goodbye to Year 8 – sports day, cultural day, non-uniform day and of course our end of year celebrations. As a team we have over 94000 DREAM points since September and are currently beating the other year groups. 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! Remember to get yourself organised – order new uniform/shoes and get set up ready for the first Monday back. Enjoy your half term, relax, do something fun and forget about school for a week.

Miss Ryan



Year 10

PPEs were a highlight of this half term, you went in with confidence and smashed them! I am so proud of your maturity and seriousness you showed them - I know this will continue into year 11!

We are looking forward to work experience, where I know you will continue to make me proud and show the world what you are about!

We have another exciting chapter where you will be getting a new head of year and I know this person will help and guide you along the way to your GCSEs.

As always keep up the good work, continue to make me proud and show the MER Way!

Miss Hancock

Mock Exams

Year 9

Year 9 had their assessment week this half term and approached this with a lot of hard work and dedication. A true reflection of what it is to be MER.

It was also fantastic to see so many year 9 students leading the way in the school production. Congratulations to those involved in what was a truly remarkable performance.

Mr Sparks



Year 11

The Year 11s have had a fantastic start to their GCSE exam season with students arriving early to attend booster sessions, as well as revision classes throughout the day. Whilst it was sad to see them leave for Study Leave earlier this month, it's wonderful seeing the pride on their faces when another paper has been sat. We look forward to seeing them for their Prom in July, a "night under the stars" that will surely be one to remember!

Mrs Cotton

News from The Library!

We are already looking ahead to our Best of Books Week in June where Usborne Books will be visiting the school for a two-day book fair. While there will also be a number of activities going on, a highlight will undoubtedly be the visit of author and illustrator Tim Tilley. Tim has won numerous awards for books such as Harklights and Witchstorm, among them being the Joan Aiken Future Classics Prize and Waterstones Children's Book of the Month.

This month, our reading ambassadors are happy to recommend the following books.

Ben W, 7G2, recommends **The Explorer**, by Katherine Rundell

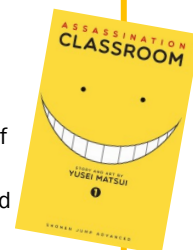
This is a thrilling story of adventure, friendship and survival in the Amazon. Four children are on their way back to England from Manaus when the plane they're on crashes and the pilot dies upon landing. At first the children struggle to work together, but they eventually build a good friendship and come to rely on one another.

I think that it is a good book because you get to learn about how the Rainforest works and how you could survive there. It also warns you to look after yourself and others.

Ahmad A, 7T1, recommends **Assassination Classroom**, by Yusei Matsui

A yellow creature destroys half the moon in less than half a second. His name is 'Kuro' and he decides to be teacher for class 1A. The class have to destroy Kuro before the summer, or he will take over the world! Despite liking him, and not wanting to kill him, they have to destroy him to save the world.

I think people should read this book because of the thrill and suspense. There are many plot twists, but readers will find this fun. It is fantasy which will make it enjoyable too.



Year 7 National Young Writers' Poetry Competition Winners

The following students from year 7 have won a national Young Writers' poetry competition and will have their work published in a poetry anthology called 'Through Their Eyes - Echoes of Alternate Worlds' that will be released on 28th June this year!



Deanne Osburn Jeremiah Zayne Romaisa

I have a dream

I have a dream
that one day this planet
longing for change
will become one of the dreams
of unlucky children
abused, enslaved.

I have a dream
that one day my people
will be free.
Tortured and beaten,
this harsh treatment
must come to an end.

I have a dream
this world shall change
increase equality
we must show morality.
But it's bound to be hard
longing for freedom.

I have a dream
That this world will
one day have an equality act.
And my people will stop being tools.
No more slave trading.
No more hard labour.
No more death and destruction
for my people.

I have a dream
that my children's children
will be treated like every other human.
Off to school
living life to the fullest.

I have a dream.

By Osburn
Age 11, Year 7
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Life changer

My friendly shadow always looms
My beaming sunshine filling the rooms.
I vow to care for you
Even when you've had enough.

I give magical healing potions
for both the young and old,
many leave the hospital feeling confident and bold.
Time to hear my patients' final goodbyes,
time to change another life.

I am a nurse.

By Deanne
Age 12, Year 7
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Unspoken echoes of joy

Silent crib
untouched by joy
tiny clothes never worn by a girl or a boy.
An unspoken dream
my aching heart bares.
Unfulfilled hope,
treasured memories
forever unshared.

By Romaisa
Age 12, Year 7
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

The melancholy life of a toothbrush

I get up early in the morning
Even when they forget,
I'm always here for them.
And almost every evening
I'm shaken vigorously
to death.
A tiny cup
is my home,
my job is
to cleanse.
Rotting teeth.
Smelly breath.
After that
I'm left alone
and alone...

By Jeremiah
Age 12, Year 7
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Predator

I am a royal strider.
My magnificent nine lives to aid me.
My feet, never injured.
A furry stalker.
waiting, waiting
waiting patiently
in the alleys.

Waiting, waiting
Day and night
for my prey
to step out of the rubbish.

And then, I see
A fat, juicy mouse!
I shall have a
lovely feast tonight.

By Zayne
Age 11, Year 7
Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Congratulations to all the students for embodying the MER way through the diversity, maturity and empathy that students have shown in their outstanding work.



Design & Technology

Termly FOOD JOURNAL

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

Year 8 – Ninja Pizza Challenge

All the Y8 Food students really enjoyed making their dough-based pizza. Decisions around the pizza shape and toppings gave students the opportunity to be creative as well as making them think about their ingredient sensory choices - taste, textures and flavours.



Fun Facts about Pizza – Did you know?

1. The most popular pizza topping is pepperoni
2. The first pizzas did not have tomato puree sauce
3. The first online pizza order was made in 1974!
4. Tossing pizza dough helps it stretch into a perfect shape and create the perfect crust
5. 9th February is National Pizza Day
6. The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are the most pizza-crazy fiction characters



Year 9 – Jamie Oliver Challenge

All the Y9 Food students took on Jamie Oliver Egg presentation challenge. They worked in pairs and needed to demonstrate a similar egg-based dish from one of the four given cuisines – Mexican, Spanish, British and Indian. They embraced this challenge with a keen enthusiasm. We think their presentations are better than Jamie Oliver. How would you have presented your egg dish?



Year 9 – Homemade Burger and Coleslaw

As part of Y9 PPE Assessment week our Food students were expected to prepare, cook and serve a Burger in a bun with a coleslaw accompaniment – meat based or alternative. They only had one hour to complete this dish as well as considering restaurant style

presentation. We all know that we eat with our eyes and food styling, on a plate or slate, is so important. How well do you think they did?



Compare similar restaurant styled burgers

Fast food burgers are often cooked in oil and may contain additives and preservatives to enhance flavour and extend shelf life, which can be harmful to health.

Making your own burger at home, where you can choose the meat ie lean beef or chickpea and control what goes into it ie seasoning, can cut down on saturated fats and calories and result in a healthier burger.



Design & Technology

Termly DESIGN TECH JOURNAL

Year 9 are currently working on their clock projects. Designed on 2D design and laser cut out of acrylic.



Year 10 are making picture frames with mitre joints and also creating the graphics on 2D design then staining the laser cut wood.



The year 9 students Khushwant and Parth worked really hard after school on a Monday and have got through to the Teen Tech final.



TEENTECH AWARDS

Dear Mr Selby

I am absolutely delighted to let you know that the following team from your school has progressed through to this year's final:

Category: FUTURE OF TRANSPORT

Project: ElectroGen

Many congratulations, this is a HUGE achievement. The judges have been blown away by the high standard of the entries and the amount of work students have put into all these ideas is evident throughout.

Your team are now invited to the Finals Judging Day and Ceremony which will take place on: **FRIDAY 28TH JUNE** at the IET, Savoy Place, London WC2

This is an amazing and full day, ALL finalist details will be sent to you in the next few days.

I look forward to hearing from you and congratulations again, we're very excited to meet all your amazing students in the final!

Kind regards,

Dani Longhurst

TeenTech Awards and Virtual Innovation Project Lead



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.



Mental Health Awareness Week



To celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week we have had a variety of different Do Now activities in all lessons this week to build awareness within our community. This has been an excellent opportunity to look at different elements within Mental Health and how this can impact everyone. We have had activities including exam stress tips, gratitude jars, mindfulness and meditation, the importance of talking, amongst many more. The picture shows some of our amazing Year 10 students getting involved with the Mindfulness colouring activity, creating their own bookmark. This was a brilliant week, topped off with our Wear Green Day where students were encouraged to wear a green accessory with their uniform to show support for Mental Health Awareness.



Lesson 1 – We all have mental health

What do you understand mental health to be? Watch the video and then discuss with the person next to you.



Lesson 1

What matters to you?

- On a piece of paper, or in the back of your book, draw thought bubbles with the things that matter most to you.
- Discuss with the person next to you why you selected the things you have – why do they matter to you? Do any of them matter to you more than the others?



Lesson 3 – Check in on those around you

Watch the video What do you feel the message of this video is and why is it important? Why might some people mask their feelings?



On Friday 17th May students were invited to wear a green accessory over the full and correct uniform in exchange for a £1 donation to our chosen charity 'Mental Health Foundation'.

Accessories included socks, ribbons, bracelets, Hijab and lots more.

As a school we managed to raise

£58.85





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



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

Athletics

We had 23 of our students from years 8,9 and 10 who were selected to compete in the Reading town championship where we had students compete in different events such as the 100M, shotput, high jump and 1500m and with a chance to compete for the district.

Our runners on the day all had a great display and 7 of the 10 sprinters got out of the heats and into the final and 4 of them collecting medals Naomia, Mfonso, Hanifa and Jariece.

In the throwing events more medals were collected out of the 5 students throwing

either a Javelin, discus or shotput, 3 medals were collected. Two 3rd place finishes for our 2-year 9 javelin throwers Tadiaw and Eman and a 1st place for our year 9 boys shotput thrower, Henij. Our



year 10 shotput and discus thrower both narrowly missed out and came 4th place.

In the jumping events in a very strong competitive field, we weren't able to pick up as many medals however remained competitive throughout. We picked up one

2nd place medal from our year 10 boy long jumper, Jariece. In the year 9 boy and girl long jump both students gave it a

great go considering they had not competed in the event before. Our high jumpers for year 9 and 10 girls and year 9 boy both narrowly missed the podium spots again coming 4th place in this event.

The long distances events were the most challenging for our students that day coming up against string competitors and the standout being our year 10 boy 1500M runner, he tried to take the pace to the competition and led the race for at least 1000M but just over eagerly went a bit early and was caught by a few other students on the final lap.



Overall a fantastic day for the students where they competed for the school and had smiles on their faces throughout the day. The biggest standout of the day being Jariece who was able to collect 2 medals on the day for his 400m and Long jump and just 2 cm short of 1st place. 8 out of the 23 students left with a medal and a 4 have the chance to compete for Reading in districts.




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.






AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Click [here](#) to find a list of after school clubs

TERM DATES 2024	
	15th April - 24th May
Summer Term	3rd June - 23rd July

Click on envelope to view recent communications



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



MCAS -

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