



The Pulse

Aim High, Be Inclusive and Work Together

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Happy half term everyone!

What a difference a year makes, twelve months ago we had already survived the Trust wide "Cyber-attack" and an Ofsted inspection.

I am very pleased to report that the start of the 2024-25 academic year has been much less dramatic; in fact, it has been one of the best starts to the school year in recent memory.

In August we celebrated the Year 11 GCSE results, which were very pleasing overall and in line with our results in 2022 and 2023. There were many amazing individual achievements, too many to single out, but most pleasing was that the overwhelming majority of our students secured the grades they needed to progress to their next steps on their education journey.

In September we welcomed new staff to MER; Mrs Kirschke (Head of Modern Foreign Languages), Miss Tee (Head of English), Mr Davison (Head of Maths) Mr Ifalade and Mrs Mahapatra (Science), Mr Abiola (Music), Mrs Barber (Science technician), Mr Kaloudis (English), Mr Bone (Pastoral Manager), Mrs Van Heerden (Assistant Phase Leader), Miss Camilleri (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Denton (Safeguarding & Outreach Worker), Mr Dibs (Cover Supervisor) and Mr Wiseman (Site Assistant). They have all made a very good start in their new roles and settled in well into the "MER family."

We also welcomed our new cohort of 180 in Year 7, they too have made a very promising start under their new Head of Year, Mr Hibbins. Our new morning "Line Ups" for every year group have provided an opportunity to make sure that students are ready for their day, with uniform and equipment checks and key messages for

the day delivered.

Our Open Evening in September was our best ever, with a record turn out from prospective students and their families; the open mornings that followed were equally popular and our Student Leadership team did a wonderful job, as always, of giving our visitors a guided tour of the school. We then held parents information evenings for each year group, with Heads of Year and tutor teams on hand to share key information and take any questions from parents during the evening.



Attendance remains a key priority for our school, whilst we made great strides last year, improving our overall attendance by 2% on the

previous year, we still have work to do to reach the levels required. Only by being in school can children be supported by the professionals they need to achieve their potential. Every day of school that is missed can leave gaps in learning that are hard to reclaim; we greatly appreciate your continued support in working with us to ensure that your child always comes into school each day.

In the final week of this half term, a number of students will have had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, which will be particularly exciting for members of the debating club to see some politicians in action. Year 11 will sit their Pre-Public examinations immediately after the half term break and Year 10 will sit their Religious Studies PPE in the second week back.

There are a number of key events before Christmas to look forward to, including our Christmas Concert on the 19th December;

CALENDAR

| 6th November | START OF TERM |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6th November | Year 11 PPE 1 start |
| 11th - 15th November | Anti-bullying Week |
| 11th - 15th November | Bebras National Computing Challenge |
| 11th November | Reading Climate Change Conference |
| 13th November | Ski Trip Information Evening at MES |
| 20th November | Young Voices |
| 21st November | Cultural Dress Day |
| 26th November | Year 7 & 8 Harry Potter Studios Trip |
| 2nd December | Flu Vaccinations (all years) |
| 4th December | Year 10 V&A Trip |
| 6th December | Year 11 Mock Interview Sessions |
| 11th December | KS3 Snow Queen Reading Rep Theatre |
| 19th December | Christmas Concert |

before that, we look forward to welcoming all parents and carers into the school on Thursday 28th November for our annual Student Progress Day, where parents and students have opportunity to meet with their tutors to review their start to the academic year and give advice and guidance on areas for improvement. Last year was our first ever Student Progress Day and over 600 families attended. We hope that we can beat that number in 2024 so please make sure you put that date in your diaries!

Best wishes to all for a safe and enjoyable half term holiday.

Will Graham

MFL CELEBRATE

Global Bake Off

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Thursday, the 26th of September the MFL department was celebrating European Day of Languages. This is an annual, international celebration to promote diversity and language learning. In our French and Spanish lessons, we completed a variety of challenges and learned all about the importance of learning languages and embracing different cultures.

Our KS3 students were also invited to take part in the "Global Bake Off". The challenge was seemingly simple - bake a cake (or dessert) inspired by a country. More than 30 hobby bakers rose to the challenge and participated

by sharing photos of their delicious treats. The treats ranged from a cake shaped like Finland, to apple pie, Kesari Baat and even an Eiffel tower made out of marshmallows.

The competition was fierce and it was

nearly impossible to make a decision, but the winner was eventually decided.

A big well done to all students who participated!

Mrs Kirschke

1ST PLACE: Nash (Y8)



2ND PLACE: Samarth (Y7) - Kesari Baat (Indian dessert)



3RD PLACE: Jakob (Y7) - Apfelkuchen (vegan and gluten free!)



Other great work:

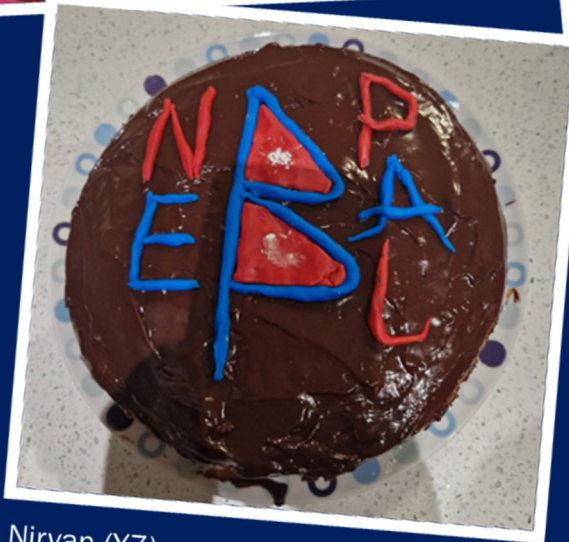
Global Bake Off



Rohini (Y7)



Kasper (Y8)



Nirvan (Y7)



Naavika (Y7)



Hector (Y9)



Geography fieldwork on site Year 8

This half term has seen a great start from Geography students across the school, but the highlight for me as a curriculum leader is always seeing students engage in fieldwork. Year 8 completed a microclimate study (although some have seen poor weather put theirs off until just before half term), looking at how we have areas across our outside space with their own 'micro' climates. The students measured wind speed and temperature using our anemometers with built in thermometers. It was lovely to see students showing curiosity about the environment around them, making predictions about areas of the school they suspected were likely to have a microclimate and taking the data collection aspect seriously. We will build on the fieldwork skills that they have learnt next year with a fieldwork trip in the summer term; year 9 have that to look forward to this year!

Mr Tomsett



Year 7

I would like to start off by saying how proud Year 7 have made me with their start to MER so far. The transition from primary to secondary is not always easy and they've worked diligently to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible. As a year group they have been top of the school in attendance with 97%, have 10,000 DREAM points accumulated already and they also have the highest percentage of attendance to extra-curricular clubs. To top two of the stats at this point in the school year is impressive.

Year 7 have already had two guest speakers from both Story group and the

Mental health support team in which they showed active listening skills and maturity throughout. They're an inquisitive, bright, and caring year group that throughout their years at MER I am sure they will make strong bonds with their peers and staff.

Keep it going year 7! Looking forward to welcoming you back after your extended half term. Rest up, spend some time with friends and family and most importantly recharge those batteries ready to bring back that brilliant energy you all have.

Mr Hibbins



Year 8

WOW where have the last 8 weeks gone! Year 8 have absolutely smashed it with DREAM points this term so far! We are flying along with over 23,000 points. Our challenge is now to keep it up! Our focus of the start of this year has been about ensuring students understand the MER Way. We have spoken about ways we can show respect, be safe and be ready in school, at home, and in the local community. All of the DREAM points Year

8 have achieved this term are a reflection of the hard work we have put in to start this year. There have been lots of things to celebrate so far this term, including our amazing helpers at the open evening, and many more! There are some exciting times ahead, let's have a fantastic break and return ready and raring to go for half-term number 2.

Mr Carpenter



We are excited to share that we have been selected to participate in the **TESCO STRONGER STARTS CHARITABLE INITIATIVE**

We hope to be able to expand our **Breakfast Club**, offering free, healthy snacks to any family who is unable to provide this for themselves.

Just use the **blue coin** provided at the checkout to vote for Maiden Erlegh School in Reading - every little helps!



Vote in any Reading Tesco Express or Extra store



MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL IN READING



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



STEM Science, Technology,
Engineering, Mathematics

STEM Club has officially launched and we have had a very good turn out of students (25+) attending so far!

As a club we have decided to enter national competitions to win prizes and try to get our school accredited with the Space Education Quality Mark awarded by the European Space Agency.

The competitions that we have decided to enter are the following:

- UK Youth Rocketry Challenge - build and launch a model rocket

- UK Space Design Challenge - design a space settlement for humans
- Optional Bronze Crest Award - build a model rocket

Below are photos of rocket models which were propelled into the air by blowing into a straw.

All students had to work in groups to design a very simple paper rocket which had a nose cone, fuselage and fins. Once they completed their rockets they then launched it to see which one travelled the furthest. The top three winners won House Points (1st = 20HP, 2nd = 15HP & 3rd = 10HP).

Mr Hetherington



Year 9

This time last year, as Year 8s, we had approximately 18,000 DREAM points. This year, we are currently over 28,000! What a fantastic achievement, and a true reflection of the hard work that has been put in so far this year.

We have three key focus points this academic year; determination, respect and team work. This is a very important year, getting set up ready to take on our options next year.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the information evening in September, it was a great turnout. Please make a note in your diary for Thursday 30th January, the GCSE options information evening. It is important you attend this evening so you can find out about the options we have available for GCSE.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support and I look forward to the continued hard work of our year group.
Miss Ryan



Year 10

What an amazing term so far. Year 10 have been pushing themselves to prepare for their upcoming PPE's. Striving to showcase their ability and determination.

A real buzz is being created in the year group for work experience in the summer term, which is great to hear so many of the group talking about future destinations, careers and opportunities.

Looking forward to another great half term.

Mr Sparks

Year 11

The Year 11s are hitting the ground running with their final year - from applications to examinations, they really are looking ahead and working hard on their futures! SSLG have led the way with revision, organising student seminars for the first time at MER. Attendance has been impressive, showcasing how keen our students are to succeed. We have been fortunate enough to host several Post 16 guest speakers, including Reading College, The Wren and The Piggott. Students have been processing their applications already and are planning

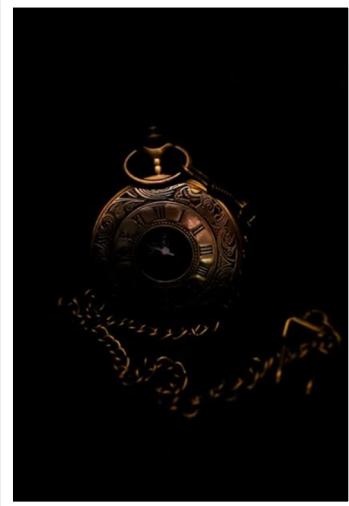
on a weekly basis how they can meet their aspirational and predicted grades to make it onto their courses of choice. An exciting Higher Education Fair awaits us next term, as do their first round of PPEs. I have no doubt they will continue to take all opportunities in their stride, demonstrating at every stage their resilience and ambitions of success. Wishing them the very best with the year ahead, I have complete faith in each of them!

Mrs Cotton



Art Year

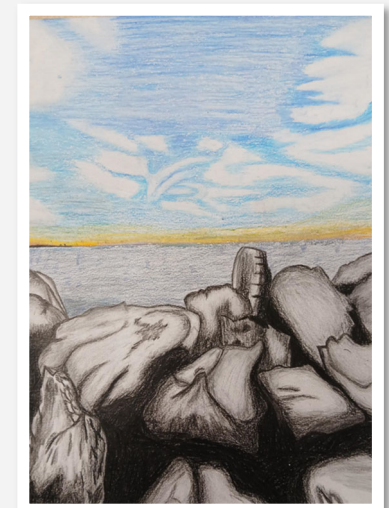
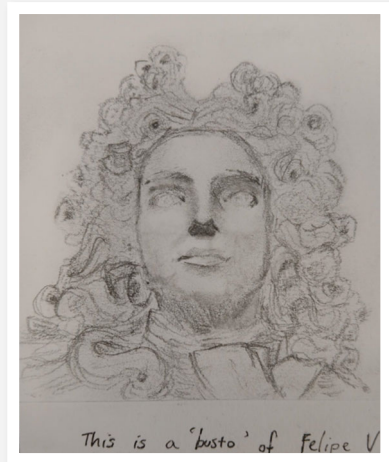
Year 9 & 10 Photography



Year 9 Printing



Year 11 Art



MER Open Evening and Open Mornings



Tuesday 24th September was our latest Open Evening. As always our students were super keen to show our school off to the next potential year 7s. I was overwhelmed by the response from students when they were asked if they could help out. We had over 100 students sign up to either act as tour guides or to help in different department areas, we were certainly glad of all the helpers as we were extremely busy on the evening showing families around.

The evening held lots of treats for all that visited and there were many comments from families as they left about how helpful and informative our students were.

We also held several open mornings during October for families. Once again our students stepped up to act as tour guides and to answer lots of questions from families. They really are the experts when it comes to showing people around our school.

Mrs Gibbs



Design & Technology

Food Journal - Summer Term

Food presentation focusses on colour, arrangement, balance, texture and how easy it is for guests to eat. How food is 'plated up' onto a slate or a plate is important.

This term, year 8 students were given a 'free choice' practical to using mince meat or an alternative. The department were impressed by the choices and outcomes. Well done. students in Year 9 and Year 10 who were challenged and expected to consider these factors as part of this terms work in Food.

Plating food is simply a process of arranging all the components of a meal onto a serving dish. It does not have to be a work of art.

In restaurant terms, plating food involves putting a little more thought into how you are setting everything up so that it looks as good as possible.

How do you think our Year 7, 8, 9 and Year 10 students did?

Year 7 - Autumn Term

The students in Year 7 were asked to use their knowledge of the Eatwell Guide to create an interesting layered Pasta in a Jar as well as accurately cooking pasta 'al dente'.



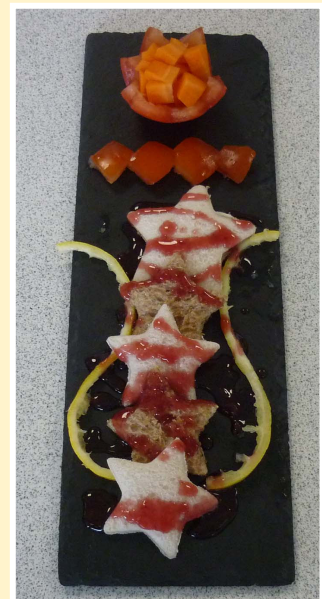
Year 8 - Savoury Mince Challenge

The students were given a 'free choice' practical to using mince meat or an alternative. The department were impressed by the choices and outcomes. Well done.



Year 9 - Plate Presentation

The students were asked to arrange the following ingredients onto a plate or slate. All ingredients needed to be used - lemon, tomato, chives, slice white bread, slice wholemeal bread, fruit coulis.



Design & Technology

Year 9 - Autumn Term

The students in Year 9 are trialling three dishes from different cultures. Their project brief is linked to British or International Cuisine. This decorated layered Cheese cake involved using the food processor to crush the biscuits, an electric whisk to 'soft peak' cream and knife skills to chop, cut and slice chosen fruit topping.

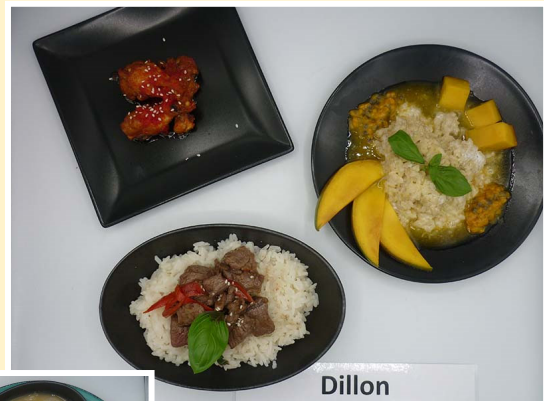


Year 10 – NEA2 Food Preparation (Mock)

The students produce 3 final dishes in 3 hours linked to given assignment brief – International Cuisine.



Ashton



Dillon



Abigail



Chanelle



Chloe

Visit to House of Parliament

“Knowledge is power”- Francis Bacon (1597). This is exactly the sentiment expressed by 31 students as they departed the House of Parliament UK with newfound empowerment. On Monday 21st October 2024, MER embarked on a memorable trip to the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. This visit is one that will be revered by the 31-student contingent of Year 10 and Year 11 students and three members of staff- Mrs N. Thompson-Delpleche (Trip organiser and Teacher of English), Mrs J. Gale and Mrs M. Lone (Administrative Staff).

We began our tour under two ebullient and knowledgeable tour guides through the hallowed walls of Parliament. We first visited the Robing room and proceeded to the House of Lords, the House of Commons, the central lobby, the division lobbies and Westminster Hall.

The House of Lords where the average age is 72 years, is where the Barons and Baronesses meet. The Lord Speaker sits on a wall cushion made from stuffed wool derived from various parts of the UK to showcase the prosperity and wealth of the UK and he presides over debates here where ten speakers can stand at a time to speak. They are usually courteous in behaviour where each one gives way to the other to speak. In the House of Commons there are more rigorous debates where the MPs conduct their debates.

We had some monumental moments where we became one with history as we stood where Nelson Mandela stood (South

Africa’s first black president) and we stood over the cellar where Guy Fawkes plotted the Gun Powder Plot. We viewed interesting aspects like the original paintings of King Henry VIII and all his wives, the throne on which King Charles III sits and the seats of the other royals. We saw the original copy of the Magna Carta which was issued in



1215 which implemented democracy across the UK conveying no one is above the law. The statue to which the suffragettes chained themselves during their protest for the right of women to vote was a spectacle to behold.

The main highlights of our visit were learning about petitions and how bills are passed in parliament. My epic part of the tour was the formidable contributions made by our students which showcased their impressive knowledge of historical facts when questions were posed to them and role-playing the presentation of

petitions.

One student said, “The workshop held at the end of the tour was very interactive and helped us to realise the power we possess as people under 18 and the power we have to change things, to implement new laws, and to bring about changes within our communities via the use of petitions, protests and talking to our local MP”.

I conclude with a heartfelt thank you to our students, parents, supporting staff members including SLT for supporting this vision and making it a memorable one. This is not the end of this journey as I am already preparing the next leg of the journey where the students can implement and showcase what they have learned.

Stay tuned!

Mrs N. Thompson- Delpleche





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.

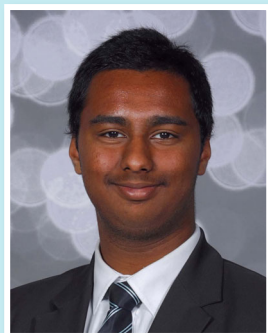


Senior Student Leadership Group

We are very pleased to announce this year's Student Leadership Team, lead by Laura and Ganesh and supported by their deputies, Heyvis and Nenyasha. A range of new roles have been created this academic year and we are incredibly excited to see what projects they run within our school and the wider community. They have already been outstanding assets, leading Information and Open Evenings and represent The MER Way to the highest of standards. We welcome them on board as leaders of the school and wish them the very best in their new positions of responsibility.



Laura - Head Student



Ganesh - Head Student



Heyvis -
Deputy Head Student,
Academic Studies
Ambassador



Nenyasha -
Deputy Head Student,
Environmental Committee
Ambassador

After 5 successful years, we've reached our final destination. What once seemed so far away, is now within hands' reach. It is right at our doorstep. For all of us, this year is filled with anticipation. There's pressure, no doubt. But this is the time when the most hope is needed. The time to truly believe in yourselves.

Yet tonight, we stand here before you all for a different reason. To our dear parents, we're here to ask you a favour. A favour that may be the most important thing we can ask of you at this current time. We're here to ask for your support. We're here to beg of you to please help keep our dreams alive.

The months ahead of us are filled with all sorts of thoughts, emotions and feelings. And it's in these uncertain times when we need you the most. We need you to help push us forward, closer towards our goals. To push us to tackle our challenges and our mistakes. Yet more importantly, we need you there to catch us when we fall back down; when we feel like giving up. You've always been there to pick us up when we faltered and you've been there to celebrate our successes, providing the quiet stability that allows us to thrive. This year, we need as much of your support as we can possibly get.

Now, more than ever, we need confidence. The confidence to tackle that unsolvable problem. The confidence to revise for that one subject that feels impossible. The confidence to try. We need to be reminded that one bad outcome doesn't define our future, and we need reassurance that, no matter what, we are capable of anything.

For those watching us go through this significant phase, it's easy to feel the pressure too. But it's important to remember that the grades are just one part of the bigger picture. The resilience, growth, and confidence we build during this time will shape us long after the results are in. Your calm presence and belief in us help us stay grounded, especially when we feel overwhelmed.

We shouldn't tackle the upcoming months with dread, fear or stress. But we should face it head on with a calm mind, a positive attitude, and with a smile on our face. The future is unknown to all of us. That's why we're so scared of it. We're unsure of what will happen. But I want you all to know that no matter what happens, things will always work out for us, even if it's in a way that we never expected.

As we move into Year 11, we, the students, will give our all. But we also ask you to walk with us—offering encouragement when things get tough and reminding us of our strengths when we might forget them ourselves.

Therefore, we need your promise. We need your help. We need you, our beloved parents, to keep us going. To keep us moving forward. To inspire us. To motivate us. Let's continue to lift each other up, offer words of encouragement, and celebrate every achievement—big or small—along the way so that when we reach that results day in August, we can all walk out, with no regrets. The path ahead may not and will not be the smoothest, but with a calm mind, we simply need to find how we can succeed - no matter what comes our way.

Laura & Ganesh - Head Students



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FACILITIES TO HIRE?

We welcome enquiries about the private use of our facilities. If you would like to come and see what facilities we have to offer, please arrange a visit via Reception or contact us by emailing merlettings@maidenerleghttrust.org

A full list of our facilities and hire charges can be found on our website or by contacting our school Business Manager.



SPORTS HALL – NETBALL COURTS – TENNIS COURTS – DANCE STUDIO –
MUSIC STUDIO – MAIN SCHOOL HALL – DINING AREA – ATRIUM – MULTI USE
GAMES AREA (MUGA) – CLASSROOMS – MEETING ROOMS

 **81 CRESCENT ROAD, READING, RG1 5SL**

 0118 966 8065

 merlettings@maidenerleghttrust.org



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

Sports

U14 Girls have got off to a tough start in their football games having 3 losses and one win from their first 4 games, but have time to turn things around. There have been big improvements in their first couple of games. Standout players so far have been Deborah, Naomia and Blanca all putting in fantastic work and trying to lead the team forward. Some tough fixtures against Little Heath, Bohunt and Maiden Erlegh School still to come.

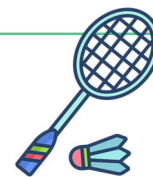
Year 7 have started to turn out well to clubs since joining with about 40 students turning out to boys football

club and about a mixture of 30 girls and boys turning up for u14 basketball.

Year 7 girls football are preparing to start their season in 3 weeks time, they seem very enthusiastic and ready to start playing.

For older year groups in the school, such as the year 10 and 11's there are 3 sports clubs on for them currently, Basketball, Handball and Badminton. All 3 have had great turn outs and all trying to battle out to get out in teams and fixtures for the school. We have had a great response to Badminton and

are looking at the capacity of hosting another club space so we can get more students to attend.



Handball training has been going well with about 25-30 year 10 and 11 boys training to get into the next squad for the games against Maiden Erlegh School and Cox Green on the 19th November.

A big thank you to Reading Rockets leading Basketball clubs afterschool.
Mr Blakeway

Are you interested in learning a musical instrument?

We currently offer lessons in the following instruments:



- Drums
- Piano/keyboard
- Guitar
- Violin
- Trumpet/trombone
- Singing
- Flute
- Saxophone
- Clarinet



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



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 | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Autumn Term | 5th September - 25th October |
| | 6th November - 20th December |

Click on envelope to view recent communications



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



MCAS -

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