



ThePulse

Opportunity, Diversity & Success For All

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

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter: "The Pulse". We hope to publish this new round up of important news and information at Maiden Erleigh School in Reading every 4-6 weeks. We hope you find it a useful, enlightening and enjoyable read.



It seems as though this first half term of the school year has flown by. Once again the school has jumped in size as we welcomed 540 students at the start of the school year. This is the first year without the inconveniences of temporary buildings and I have been very impressed with the start that our students have made to the year. Our Year 9 students have commenced their GCSE and technical courses with seriousness and determination to succeed. Year 8 has returned to build on the strong progress that they made last year and our newest students in Year 7 have quickly found their feet (and their way around the building) are making new friends and have already developed a strong work ethic. Once again, beyond the taught curriculum the staff are arranging lots of clubs and activities beyond the school day that students are signing up for.

Supporting this strong start to the year are my fantastic colleagues who have shown enthusiasm and their usual professional commitment to high standards and expectations. We are in a very fortunate position to be fully staffed with specialist teachers in every department of the school (something that is not true for number of other schools) and we have been pleased to welcome a number of new staff to join our teaching, student support and central services teams. Staff have spent a great deal of time thinking and planning their way into the new term and ensuring that lessons are engaging and challenging. This has particularly been

the case with our new Year 9 courses which will lead eventually to public examinations.

We agree with the African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child" and we know that the best support we can give students is when we work together with families. So I would like to appeal to all our parents and carers to engage with school events (for example parent information evenings and progress evenings) and to support the school in our work so that important messages can be reinforced and so that the support we give students is consistent. Parents will shortly be receiving the first report of the year via the "Learning Gateway". This report will include comments on learning behaviours and where these are particularly strong or need to improve. Please could I ask parents to use the report as the basis of a discussion with their children – as we will be in school.

Finally, I would like to thank the work of our Governors (our Local Advisory Body) who volunteer to assist me and my team with the overall leadership and direction of the school and provide objective "critical friendship" to the school. Their insights and scrutiny are important and ensure that we hold to our plans and our priorities. We welcome Mrs Amil-Bruce as our new parent governor to the Local Advisory Body following her unopposed nomination.

I wish everyone a restful half term break.
Andy Johnson, Head of School

CALENDAR

8 Nov	Year 8 Road Ahead Meeting for parents
13 Nov	Staff Professional Development Day (school closed for students)
29 Nov	Year 7 Maths Enrichment Day (provisional)
8 Dec - 15 Dec	Year 7 Tirabad
14 Dec	Christmas Concert
19 Dec	Last day term
20 Dec - 2 Jan	Christmas Holidays

University Student back in the classroom!

On Tuesday 3rd October Mrs Clarke's year 8 English class completed an online questionnaire to help the research of a 4th year Speech and language Therapy student at the University of Reading. Emily Mason came into the year 8 English class, and pupils, with parental permission, anonymously completed language tasks and personality questionnaires as part of a Control Group of typically developing students with no Speech and Language issues. Emily's dissertation is examining the link between behavioural challenge and language ability. It is hoped that this project can influence strategy in Mainstream Schools in the teaching of pupils with language difficulties. The pupils' cooperation was much appreciated, and it is hoped the SENCO and Achievement Centre will form closer ties with the Speech & Language Therapy department at the University of Reading in the future.

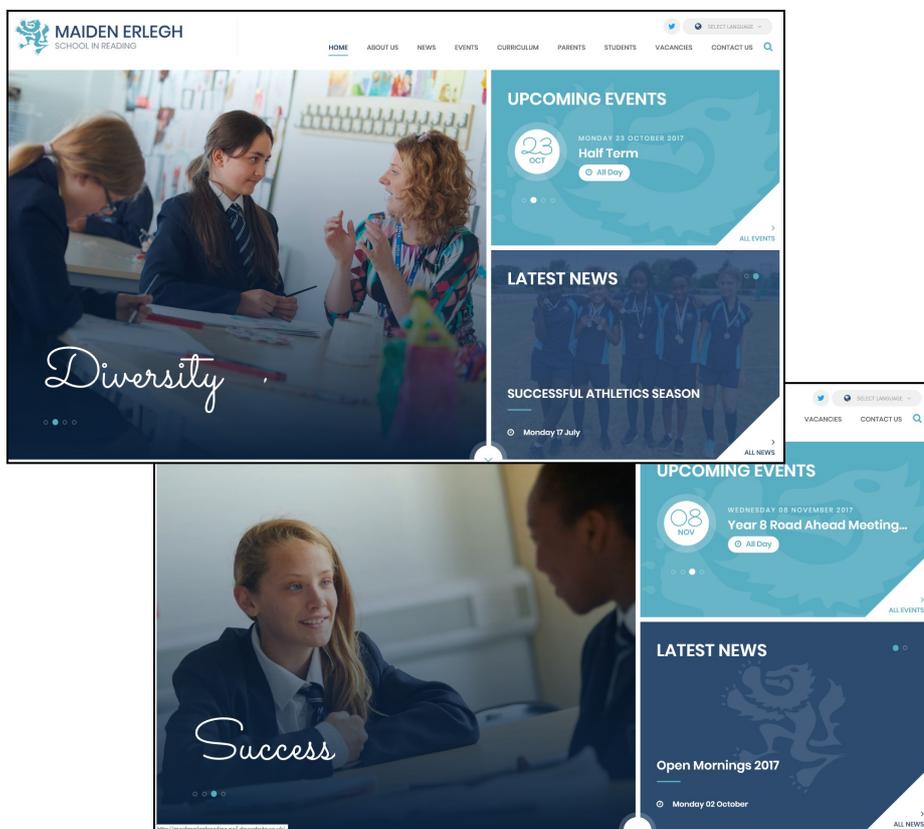


New Website

You may have noticed that the school website has had a 'refresh' as part of a Maiden Erlegh Trust website review. The aim is to reduce clutter and ensure that the website is easier to use and easy to find that all important information. Please do explore our website to check on letters that have been sent home, information

supporting the curriculum and a host of explanation about who we are and what we do. Additionally, you may like to follow the school on twitter @MESReading or "like" the school Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/maidenerleghschoolreading/>



School Meals

At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading we have a half hour 'snack break' rather than a longer 'lunch hour', where students can either purchase a meal or eat their own packed lunch. Drinking water is available in the Dining Room and students are also encouraged to bring in a plastic water bottle for use throughout the day.

All students will have the option of purchasing food in their snack break.

Free School Meals

If your son/daughter is eligible for Free School Meals, you will need to complete the relevant form which is available on the school website <http://maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk/students/school-meals/> or from Reception.

If you need assistance in applying please contact MERoffice@maidenerleghschool.co.uk or the Office Manager on **0118 966 8065**.

Once this has been processed your son/daughter will then be able to access the 'meal of the day' or snack to the equivalent value.

European Day of Languages

On Tuesday 26th September at Maiden Erlegh School, we celebrated the European Day of Languages. The aim of the day was to promote the rich linguistic diversity of Europe and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning for everyone.

During all of their lessons on this day, students participated in different activities that helped raise awareness of the important of languages. As you can see from the picture, the students enjoyed themselves whilst learning new words in Swedish, learning about Spanish words that we use in everyday spoken English and even listening to a French song!

We sincerely hope that none of our students will feel *waldeinsamskeit** any time soon!

**waldeinsamskeit*(German for 'the feeling of being alone in the woods!')

Making contact with teachers and Heads of Year

We are keen to work closely with parents and that is why we encourage staff to call home to highlight something that has gone well but also to discuss with you any concerns. Please could you ensure that if you update phone numbers, email addresses or move home, that you let the school know. This is also a health and safety issue and we need to be sure that we can contact parents and carers in the unlikely event of an emergency.

We welcome parents and carers contacting staff and welcome you emailing or calling. Please remember, however, that our staff are always busy.

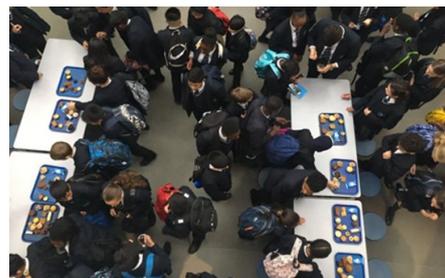
If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please leave a message with our reception team with a convenient time to call you back and they will endeavour to do so. If you wish to see a member of staff you need to make an appointment via reception and we will need to know the reason for the appointment. We try to respond to email communication as quickly as possible and within 72 hours. But please remember that teaching staff and others are not likely to be able to respond to emails straightaway. You can contact staff via reception or by email via the school office:

MERoffice@maidenerleghschool.co.uk

Crescent Road Traffic

You will be aware of the work that we have been doing to try and bring pressure on the local council and other authorities around the difficult traffic situation on Crescent Road. There are a number of potential improvements that can be made and therefore should be considered. We will continue to pursue this issue and we

would welcome your support in lobbying for improvements to your local councillor. The more voices that the council hear, the more they are likely to act. In the meantime, please could we implore parents and carers to talk to your children about road safety and hazard awareness on the way to and from school.



Fundraising for Macmillan MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

A big 'Thank you' to all parents, students and staff who spent time baking last week and helped out at with the Macmillan Cake Sale. It was down to your efforts that the sale was such a success! We are extremely grateful to those staff who took time out of their frees and break time to help set up, pour hot chocolate and direct students outside!

An extra thank you to the catering staff who prepared and donated the hot chocolate, and the site team for setting up today. We have raised over £300 and we think the students have done themselves proud! This was a lovely community event and has showed how much potential our students have!

Thank you for your support,
Miss Jordan and Mrs James

The Achievement Centre team 2017



The Achievement Centre team of Teaching Assistants at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading has grown this year, with seven TAs now supporting pupils in and around school. Mrs Asha Rajput, Mrs Jess Read, Mrs Sejal Hameed and Mr Michael Gennace join Mrs Susie Matheson, Mrs Chandra Nair and Mrs Keya Mishra. As well as working in lessons to support SEN pupils with a range of needs, our TAs are working as Mentors to individual pupils, and are involved in supervising Homework Club after school three days a week, a Puzzle Club at break times, and have helped out with the sticky-back-plastic frenzy of book covering at the start of term! Our HLTA for English, Mrs Matheson, is also working within the English

department to set up a reading intervention to support weaker readers in year 7.



SENCO Mrs Becky Clarke is continuing her *Penpals* handwriting intervention with around twenty pupils across the year groups, giving individual pupils bespoke targets for them to follow in all their lessons, with some marked visible successes already. More interventions are planned by the Achievement Centre team to support groups of pupils after half term. We look forward to a training session in early November led by the Speech and Language Therapist assigned to our school, as well as a Mental Health support project headed up by our Educational Psychologist working alongside our Primary Mental Health Care worker, starting this month. If you would like further information about the work of the Achievement Centre team, please contact the SENCO Mrs Becky Clarke via the school office.



After School Appointments and Detentions

Please could we ask parents and carers to be aware that as part of our behaviour policy, the school is able to set a 15 minute end of day appointment for a student with no notice to parents. For any appointment or behaviour related detention beyond 15 minutes we will inform you via your child's student diary. Parents know, appreciate and support our very clear code of conduct and our equally clear approach to rewards and sanctions. When the school does feel it necessary to give a detention please could we ask parents to support the decision of the school so that students hear a very clear message about our high expectations of student behaviour. Thankyou.

Year 9 National Theatre and Woman in Black Trip



National Theatre Backstage Tour

On Thursday 21st September Year 9 GCSE Drama students kicked off the year and their course with a cross trust trip with the GCSE students from our sister school to London to participate in a backstage tour around the National Theatre.



The National Theatre is a world leader in theatre with many innovative stagings of productions and new theatre technologies starting here. Equally, many famous names have 'trodden the boards' in world class productions which have taken place here.

Students had a privileged view as to how the National Theatre works behind the scenes, seeing the different job roles in theatre working together in order to create props, costumes, set for upcoming shows.

They were able to see how sets were created, held and played with props from a variety of shows and had the opportunity to see actors rehearsing for shows on the west end stage.

This extraordinary opportunity not only links to Section A of their GCSE written paper but equally we hope that it has inspired future technical theatre students for the future.

After a brief lunch and trip to the National Theatre onsite shop, it was a short trip over the river to the Fortune Theatre in Covent Garden to watch the terrifying stage production 'The Woman in Black'. Students watched the show in order to begin to master how to write about a live theatre production, relevant to Section C of their GCSE written paper.

The Woman in Black Review by Deborah Dawodu, 9G1

Watching *The Woman in Black* was really amazing and fun. I enjoyed every moment of the performance even though it was scary at most parts. The tension and dramatic levels were quite high which was good because it drew all of the audience in. When the tension was high, we were led to believe that something scary was about to happen but it doesn't. Thus, leading the

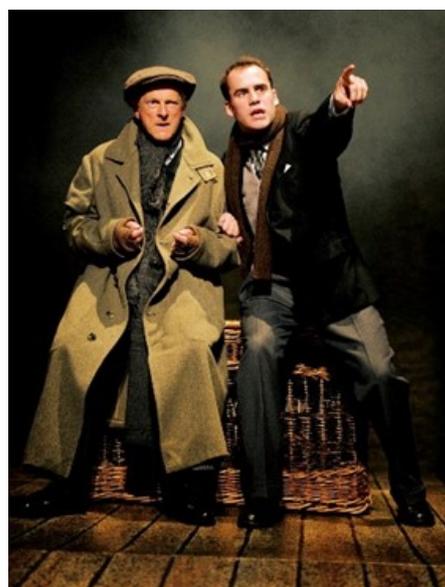
audience into a false sense of security because all of a sudden something terrifying happens making the audience jump and scream!

My favourite part is the mystery surrounding who the Woman in Black is and always wondering when she will make an appearance on stage.

Equally, I liked the fact that the audience really have to use their imagination to build a lot of the terrifying moments as the staging and set were very simple, therefore the audience are relying on the actors' skills to tell the story.

I would recommend this performance to anybody above the age of 11 years old.

I would give this performance 5 golden stars





Treasure Island Rehearsals



We are delighted to announce that the rehearsals for Treasure Island are well underway! The cast are doing a remarkable job at bringing this classic tale to life and making it their own, creating the most extraordinary characters- from the terrifying to the hilarious. We already have had a bonkers grandmother, a very clumsy pirate and a very feisty cabin girl- just to name a few.

We are looking forward to collaborating with music, art and technology in the coming months to transform the fantastic work the students have already done into a production not to be missed!



Extra Curricular in Music

Extra curricular clubs in Music are now fully underway and students are preparing several pieces of music.

The school band, who rehearse on Wednesdays after school, are currently arranging their own version of Coldplay's Viva La Vida. The band currently comprises a rhythm section of drums, guitars and keyboards and a brass section of trumpets and trombones. All who play an instrument are welcome, regardless of instrument.

The choir is the largest it has ever been and is thriving. This term's music is themed around "Africa" and so far, they have been rehearsing their own versions of

"Hakuna Mata" by Elton John and Toto's "Africa". All are welcome to come to choir which occurs during tutor time on a Thursday.

Currently, students are able to take lessons with Berkshire Maestros on piano, keyboard, saxophone, clarinet, flute, drum kit, trumpet and trombone. Guitar lessons will be starting shortly. If any student wishes to apply for lessons they should fill in the online application on http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/lessons_school.html

If you require more information about music clubs or lessons, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Butchers.

Who's Who in the School Office

THE OFFICE TEAM



(from left to right)

Tracy Kerrison, Admin Support, Naheed Raza, Office Manager, Pam Banga, Admin Support



Megan Cann
Finance/Data



Sylvie De Groote
Finance



Judith Quick
Operations

THE RECEPTION TEAM



Hazel Hassan



Alison Jones



Caroline Plunkett

Muggles on Tour



On a grey Wednesday morning in October, 50 overexcited muggles boarded a coach, forgoing the flying broomsticks for now, for a trip to the Warner Brothers Studios in Leavesden so they could see how the Harry Potter films were made. After a quick picnic elevenses, we were fast-tracked through security into the cinema to watch a short movie about how this remarkable franchise of films was created.

While year 8 students toured the studios, year 7 went into a script-writing workshop handling actual props from the films and learning how to structure a story around them. Meanwhile, year 8 were flying on broomsticks, visiting the floating staircase, watching Snapes' cauldrons stir themselves and seeing where Dumbledore, Hagrid and the other characters all filmed their scenes. The Forbidden Forest, and Platform 9 3/4 were new attractions and were particularly impressive.

Year 7 got their turn to see the iconic sets including Diagon Alley, and the Great Dining Hall and then sample butterbear and puking pastilles. We were told Eddy Redmayne and Jonny Depp were on the studio lot next door filming Fantastic Beasts 2 but unfortunately we didn't actually see them.

Having survived the Death eaters who were drifting around, we visited the shop for Harry Potter themed souvenirs. It was a superb day with year 7 and 8 commenting that the studios were 'even better than expected'. They behaved beautifully prompting our coach driver to say they were a credit to the school.



Thank you to the members of staff from the English faculty for accompanying the trip, some of who gave up their day off to do so.

Mrs Escott-New



U14 Girls Football Match

The U14 girls have got underway with their football season, travelling to Bohunt School to play 2 x 9 a side games. In the first game they faced a very strong Bohunt team who played the ball around extremely well and ended up scoring 6 goals. Maiden Erlegh girls didn't drop their heads during the entire time and showed true determination throughout. The second game was against The Wren. They stepped up immediately and took the game to them, playing the ball through the defence to the attack to fire shots and the goal keeper. Finally, we had success with Amelia Anjam scoring past the keeper to make the final score 1-0 to Maiden Erlegh in Reading. The girls can't wait for the next round of games.



Aaron Kuhl Visit

We were delighted to welcome professional footballer Aaron Kuhl into school on Wednesday 26th September. Aaron gave an assembly at the beginning of the day and then went on to run a series of mentoring and motivational sessions with small groups of students. The highlight of the day was the coaching session on the field with both boys and girls who share Aaron's passion for the beautiful game.

Thank you Aaron for giving us your time so generously



Rugby



Year 9

First game of the season, rival match against MES and we came away victorious with a very competitive game which was great for the spectators, 15-10 to Meir! Bonus was this doubled up as a cup game so the boys are into the next round. Second game was against a very very strong Highdown team who have never been beaten! Boys put in a great effort but lost by a few tries. 3 tries from Kenaz Grant and the man of the match award went to Nathaniel Deshong.

28/9/17

Played a strong Theale Green side in the team's first game coming away winner 15-5 with a good performance from the whole team. Tries scored by Kenaz 2 and Zain Shakil 1. In the second game they played Holyport who are strong new addition to the league. A very tight game ended up in Meir losing 17-12. Tries scored by Kenaz, 2. Not bad against a team who trains 8 hours a week!! Man of the match was shared between Kenaz Grant and Kajae Burton. Players player went to Sanskar Gurung.

Season Review

The year 9 boys have had another good season of Rugby which has been a lot tougher than last year as the boys are now in the top league. They have finished in 5th position just one away from the playoffs and one place above Maiden Erlegh in Wokingham! Outstanding performers are Kenaz Grant, Samyak Dhital and Fahouaz Kanon.

Year 7

First games of the season, Walk over victory against Oakbank as they didn't turn up and a brilliant match against Denefield which we came out victorious 25-20. Tries from Patrick Newman, two for Rufus Blamires, James Rutland and Josh Benham. Man of the match was shared between Partick Newman and James Rutland and players vote for Pawan Pun.

Season Review

The year 7 Rugby team are currently 5th in their league, one place off the playoff's with two games of the season left! The team had be brilliant this season picking up the game very quickly and progressing every week. The game of the season came against Denefield in week one. The team came away with a 25-20 win against a good side. Outstanding performances throughout the season from, Finley Ivory ©, Jack Strank, Abu Mwajium, Partick Newman, Pawan and James Rutland.



Cycling to School

We are delighted that lots of our students choose to cycle to school, but there are some who do not always ride safely and put themselves or others at risk. Please could we ask parents to discuss with students the dangers of:

- Not wearing a cycle helmet
- Not riding in the correct lane on the road
- Riding with earphones in
- Cutting across traffic
- Giving rides to others
- Riding on footpaths and pedestrianised areas

Additionally, we have asked students not to ride their bikes around the area at the front of school as this is used by vehicles.

We do not want an accident to happen!



TERM DATES

Term 1	6 September – 20 October 2017
	30 October – 19 December 2017
Term 2	3 January – 9 February 2018
	19 February – 29 March 2018
Term 3	16 April - 25 May 2018 (Bank Holiday 7 May 2018)
	4 June – 24 July 2018 (Open Evening 4 July 2018)
CPD Days	4 September 2017
	5 September 2017
	13 November 2017
	17 January 2018
	5 July 2018

Rugby Reports U13 Boys



Round 1

Theale Green 5 - 15 MER

This was a closely fought game, with both sides displaying good ball skills. Theale Green were slightly under strength and we were asked to field an equal amount of players. Despite them having a large and skilful number 9 we played as a team rucking well and distributing clean ball. We had a few players missing for a number of reasons but the replacements fitted well into the team. Ibbey opened the score with a trademark run, shortly followed by a second. The home team scored a well worked try and Tyron worked hard to steal the ball and score in the corner. The rucking was good and everyone contributed. Billy played a captain's role and distributed well from the base of the scrum, however injured himself in the final minutes. John was great in defence and hungry for the ball while Jessey show great skills on the wing. Ibbey was involved in most of our good manoeuvres. Our tackles were sometimes slipping up and our

passing should be more direct to the hand.

MOTM Ibbey

PP Tyron

Lang 15 - 5 MER

Without a rest and with Billy's injury keeping him sidelined we were up against a very well organised team. Again we played defensively well but our downfall was lack of pace in attack when running onto the ball. In the end fatigue got the better of us after a tough first game but it was a closely fought contest with Ibbey again getting on the scoresheet. The opposition finished strongly and just had the edge in attack. A fair result but a great team effort.

Round 2

Oakbank 0-20 MER

With a streamlined squad we traveled the short distance to leafy Ryeish Green to play two fixtures. After a short warm up we were straight into the match and a try from Jessey in the third minute. This spurred us on as a team to build on great rucking and direct running. Ibbey made a great run and was deemed to be just short of the line. The reaction by the team was positive and further tries by Ibbey, Adam and Tyron put us in a strong position. Another try by Jessey was cancelled out by some creative officiating. A great performance on the whole with lots to be pleased about.

Highdown 5-10 MER

Once again with no rest we played our second game against Highdown. Both teams were contesting at the break down and again our forwards combined as a unit to feed the backs. Two individual tries sealed the win but Highdown picked up the pace and played some great rugby with a good try. In the final minutes we had to defend strongly and sealed the win. Our fitness was good but some lazy running gave easy penalties to the opposition, food for thought in training. Congratulations to all the players for their effort and skill.

MOTM Jessey

PP Ibbey

Round 3

Bohunt 20-0 MER

We traveled to the lavish surroundings of Bohunt School to find the match had been moved to a nearby pitch. We faced a well organised Bohunt team who scored straight from the kickoff which took the wind from our sails. As we were a man down we were always going to be on the back foot and Bohunt were very strong going forward using the wings well. We actually played some good rugby with a few well worked attack's. Tyron made some great breaks. Ibbey was playing scrum half and was always in the thick of the action. Jessey tackled well and John made a great steal. However we just couldn't seem to touch down. The forwards played well as a unit and scrummaged well. Bohunt ran in three further tries to win 20 nil.

Chiltern Edge 0-45 MER

With a short break and facing a 9 man Chiltern Edge team we were able to build on our skills. We had practiced our passing skills in training and the team linked well to score early. There were some excellent individual skills on display. We eventually won 45 nil with tries from Jessey, Ibbey, Minshok and a 50 metre sprint from Adam K. John was man of the match with 4 tries!

This performance left us third in the table which is a great tribute to the squad. The spirit in the team is very good with everyone working well together. With a tournament next week and another round left to play a top four finish is possible.

Maiden Erlegh Extra-Curricular Activities

Day	Activity	Time	Teacher	Area
Monday	Yr7 and Yr8 Boys Contact Rugby	3:15pm-4:15pm	Mr Bandy/Mr Bradley	Field
	Badminton	3:15pm-4:15pm	Mr Mackie	Sports Hall
Tuesday	Homework Club	3:00pm-4:00pm	Mrs R Clarke/TA	LRC
	School Production Rehearsals	3:00pm-4:15pm	Mrs J Tolman	Drama Studio
	Homework Club	3:00pm-4:00pm	Mrs R Clarke/TA	LRC
Wednesday	Band	3:00pm-3:45pm	Mr Butchers	044
	Yr9 Boys Contact Rugby	3:15pm-4:15pm	Mr Bandy	Field
	Girls Football	3:15pm-4:15pm	Mrs Roberts and Mr Rabin	Field
	Computing Club	3:00pm-4:00pm	Miss Brooke	145
	Science Club	3:00pm-3:45pm	Dr Davies	202
	Science Drop-In	3:00pm-4:00pm	Mr Wallis	213
	Board Games Club	3:00pm-4:00pm	Mrs Clarke/Mr Jackson	032
Thursday	Film Club - FORTNIGHTLY Week 1	3:00pm-4:30pm	Mr Harrison	203
	Choir	8:40am-9:00am	Mr Butchers	044
	English Drop-In Homework Club	3:00pm-3:45pm	Mrs Williams	108
	School Production Rehearsals	3:00pm-4:15pm	Mrs J Tolman	Drama Studio
	Mathematics Drop In	3:00pm-3:30pm	Ms Langille	117
	Homework Club	3:00pm-4:00pm	Mrs R Clarke/TA	LRC
Friday	Brass Group	2:20pm-2:50pm	Mr Butchers	044
	Journalism Club	2:25pm-3:00pm EVERY OTHER WEEK A	Mrs Escott-New	111