



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

We've got off to a flyer in 2025, so much has happened in the last six weeks, it's been hard to keep up!

Year 11 have been gearing up for their GCSE exams, starting in May, with their final round of Pre- Public Examinations, all the signs so far are promising; students appear prepared, engaged, and confident.

We have also been delighted with the mature approach shown by our Year 9 students as they decide on their GCSE options for 2025-2027; there has been a discernible uptick in engagement in terms of their attitude to learning, many students are asking good questions in their quest to make informed choices. It was fantastic to see so many families join us for the Year 9 GCSE options evening, having support from home as well as at school is fundamental to achieving future success and, on this evidence, Year 9 are in a very good place.

Meanwhile, our students have been taking advantage of the MER enrichment programme; the workshops with Jeremy Indika were very well received by our students, they asked some excellent questions and left the session much more informed and confident about how to keep themselves safe. Our STEM club, run by Mr Hetherington, is going from strength to strength; with a number of students taking part in the Lego Rocket Design Challenge and, only this week, our Year 10 boys Handball team beat Maiden Erleigh and Bohunt School, this means that MER will progress to compete in the Regional Handball finals in Bournemouth in May.

In the final week of this half term I had the pleasure of attending the presentations

delivered by seven of our amazing students as a culmination of their Maiden Erleigh Independent

Project, the standard was quite extraordinary, and the range of topics researched was mind blowing, from "terraforming Mars" to "Emotions and the science behind them", the students involved had clearly worked very hard and immersed themselves in areas of interest that they were clearly very passionate about. Thank you to Mr Tomsett for leading this initiative and for giving our students



the opportunity to stretch and challenge themselves in this way.

Looking ahead, there is so much to be excited about, with those final GCSE options

confirmed for Year 9; Matilda, our whole school production taking place in the summer term and, our end of Year Awards Evening will be a fitting way to celebrate the achievements and the hard work of so many of our students.

Thank you to all our staff for working so hard to support our students over the course of this term; sadly, we have to say goodbye to Mr Qasim, one of our Teaching Assistants, and to Mrs Lawson- Smith, our Wellbeing Lead, who is leaving us to take up a new post at Hamilton School.

I hope everyone manages to have a well-earned rest over the February half term break, we look forward to welcoming students back into school on Monday 24 February.

Mr Graham



CALENDAR

24 February	START OF TERM
25 February	Year 9 Options Deadline
28 February	TRUST INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED
3 - 7 March	National Careers Week
6 March	Trust Employment Fair Year 7 to 11
12 March	GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening
18 March	Smashed Live
28 March	Williams Racing Trip

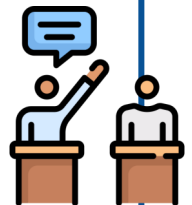
Year 7

Well done year 7 on another positive half term. You have all settled into secondary school life and have started to make the most of the extracurricular clubs on offer!

Outside of sport it is great to see Year 7 making the most of the opportunities from the maths department with students becoming regulars to maths club and an excellent turn out when offered the opportunities to make a rocket! Lots of year 7's have also been attending debate club, meaning we could have a few talented speakers in the year group! There have been lots of other clubs that have had a high year 7 attendance too, so Thankyou to all the teachers that have given up their time for this wonderful year group.

My final message is this. MER has lots to offer outside of lessons, my challenge for you is this. Attend at least one extra-curricular club next half term. They're free and give you lots of opportunities to extend your learning and potentially

Mr Hibbins



Jeremy Indika Talk

On 13 January we welcomed Jeremy Indika to school to talk to staff and students around his story of sexual abuse, and how we can try to prevent young people experiencing this, and support those who have experienced this. He spoke with year 8, 10 and 11 on the day and delivered training for staff. His story was incredibly powerful and an important message for our children and young people to hear. He gave students the strategy of having 5 people to speak to if support is needed (parents/carers,

friends, teachers, police, Childline) and whilst he told his life experiences around this topic he also focused on how this does not define a person. For further information around Jeremy and the work he does please visit his [website](#). Further information around sexual abuse, guidance for parents and support for victims can be found at the following: [NSPCC](#) [Barnados](#) [IDAS](#) [Stop Abuse Together](#)
Miss Davies

SOME to say
THING



Members of our Senior School Leadership Group helped organise a donation to a local foodbank charity. A big thank you to all who donated from ReadiFood who will distribute the donations to those who need them most in Reading.



ReadiFood



And Wellbeing Ambassadors

During 3-9 February we will be highlighting Children's Mental Health Week, utilising resources from Place2Be, during the tutor programme. There will also be sessions during Personal Development lessons, highlighting the importance of mental health and how to support student's mental health. We have also recently implemented Wellbeing Ambassadors in school, these are a group of Year 10 and 11 students who are keen to support their peers with any concerns they may have. They, along with our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors received some excellent training from TellMi around how to support peers with their concerns.



Their first activity was to work with our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to create a quiet space for students to access at break time to talk to the ambassadors and share any worries they may have. We would recommend any students who wish to access this to go to room 032 at break time to speak with our Ambassadors.

Miss Davies

**KNOW YOURSELF,
GROW YOURSELF**

Taster sessions

On Thursday 23 January, Year 9 had the opportunity to try 6 taster sessions for subjects that are offered at GCSE but not at KS3. These subjects were Economics, Business, Physical Education (Theory), Health and Social, Religious Studies and iMedia. The students were really engaged, and it was a positive day for all. Thank you to Ms Hind for organising, and to Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Nave, Ms Headley, Mr Greener, Mr Blakeway, Ms Hind, Ms Hurd-Rooms and Mrs Roberts for facilitating these sessions that were so valuable to our Y9 students.



Miss Ryan

Year 8

WOAHHHHHHHH WE'RE HALFWAY THERE..... Can you believe it? I can't. The end of the term means that we are flying through Year 8 and what an impression we are making. Let's get ready to rumble into the second half of the year, we can reflect on a positive start to 2025 and reach for the stars. We have Year 8s involved in the school production, drama activities, school football teams and many more!



Mr Carpenter

Year 9

As we look forward to the second half of the Spring term, we can reflect on a positive start to 2025. We have Year 9s involved in the school production, drama activities, school football teams and many more. We are also currently choosing our options which is an exciting process. Please keep encouraging students to speak with their tutor if they need any advice or support!



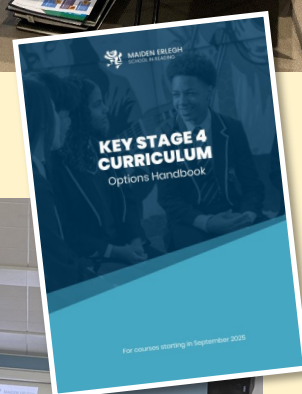
Miss Ryan

GCSE Subject Information Evening

Year 9 students are currently busy considering their options preferences, deciding which subjects they would like to study at GCSE. To help with the process, families were invited to our GCSE Subject Information Evening and given the opportunity to consult with teachers and current year 10 students

to find out more about each subject. The evening was a great success and feedback from students and teachers has been positive. Year 9 please don't forget that your Options Preference Form must be submitted to your tutor on Tuesday 25 February.

Miss Hind





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

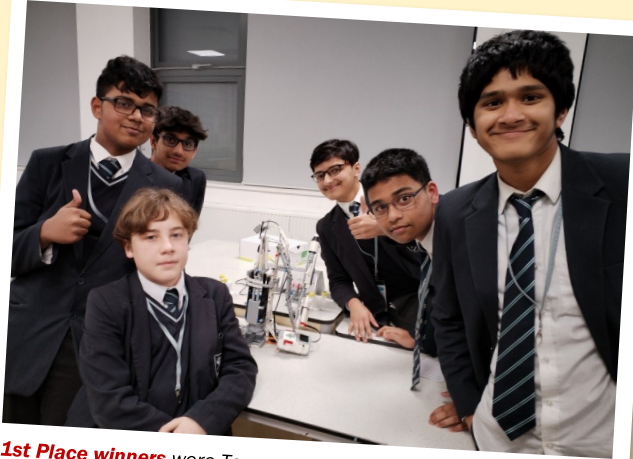


governors@maidenerleghtrust.org

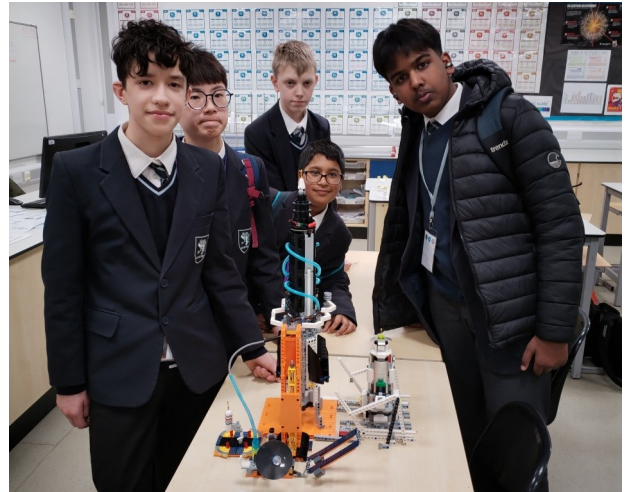
Art

Year 9 have been studying food, they've been exploring the idea of creating their own 2D fruit designs. They then transferred their ideas into 3D using clay, inspired by an arrangement of different sculptures.





1st Place winners were Tanveer, Navaneeth, Hector, Adrian, Josiah & Teja. Each won +50 HPs & a Golden Ticket.



2nd Place winners were Samarth, Botond, Partha, Ben, Kasper & Nash. Each won +25 HPs



3rd Place winner was Teo who won +15 HPs



4th Place winners were Munzir, Ryan, Kyle, Maroof, Eduard & Kowshhik, each won +5 HPs.

Lego Rocket Design Challenge

1st place winners :

Our rocket was made of a combination of classic Lego bricks, modern Lego pieces, Lego Technique and motorised pieces.

The whole design consisted of four parts: the technic rocket, the rocket clamp, a light and a motorised spinning rocket.

The technic rocket was made of Lego technic pieces and a few modern Lego pieces with well placed connectors that hold the rocket durable and sturdy.

The rocket clamp was made with Lego technic. It was made so that the hands of the clamp would hold the mass heavy rocket in place as well as demonstrate the real life spaceship booster catcher by Elon Musk's SpaceX while also looking aesthetically pleasing.

A multicoloured (red, blue and yellow)

light was put in place on top of the clamp, controlled by a switch attached to the side of the light.

A motorised spinning rocket was made using a motorised roter controlled by a Lego remote control. When pressed, it can either rotate towards the right or the left. The actual rocket, however, was made with classic and modern Lego pieces. It was connected by two rotating circular pieces that keep the motor and the rocket together and sturdy to avoid accidents and breakages.

In conclusion, despite multiple breakages and set-backs, we managed to make a winning Lego rocket model prototype.

Thank you so much Mr Hetherington and regards, *Tanveer, Adrian, Teja, Hector, Josiah and Navaneeth*

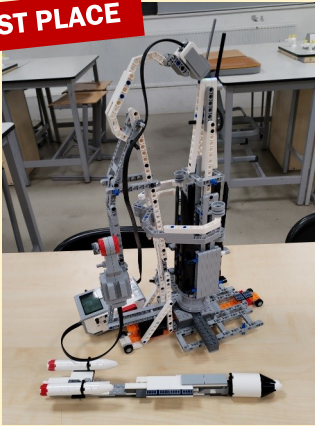
2nd place winners:

Our Lego rocket was designed to be able to travel further than most rockets and be able to safely transport astronauts and cargo such as satellites, equipment for astronauts and food and water to planets like mars. our smaller or medium rocket was made to transport astronauts to closer beings like the moon while our smallest was made to release satellites into orbit. all 3 of our rockets were made to run on nuclear energy as they can come back to earth (reusable).

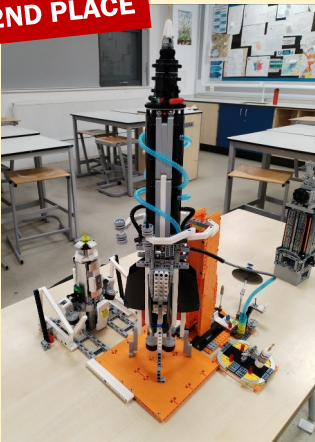
Samarth, Botond, Partha, Ben, Kasper & Nash



1ST PLACE



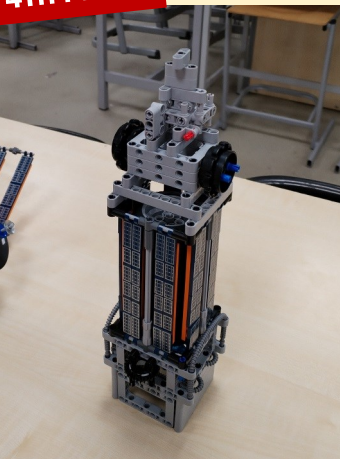
2ND PLACE



3RD PLACE



4TH PLACE



Matilda

Production Set Workshop

Students have been busy creating costumes, sets and props for the upcoming production of Matilda later this year. Any students interested in helping please come to room 207 after school on Tuesdays until 4pm. Everyone welcome! Also any donations of empty cereal boxes are much appreciated.



FROM THIS



TO THIS



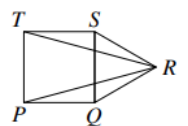
UKMT Intermediate maths challenge

We had 109 of our students sit the UKMT Intermediate maths challenge on 29 January. A fantastic number of students keen to challenge themselves and work on their problem solving skills. We are excited

to get their results and see how they did!
Can you answer the first four questions correctly?



- Which one of the following expressions has a value closest to 0?
A $2 \times 5 - 8 \times 3$ B $3 \times 4 - 7 \times 4$ C $4 \times 3 - 6 \times 5$ D $5 \times 2 - 5 \times 6$ E $6 \times 1 - 4 \times 7$
- What is the remainder when 2652134 is divided by 13?
A 1 B 2 C 3 D 4 E 5
- The diagram shows a square $PQST$ and an equilateral triangle QRS . What is the size, in degrees, of angle PRT ?
A 10 B 15 C 20 D 25 E 30
- All Felix's cats are normal cats. Together, they have 12 more legs than they have tails. In total, how many ears do they have?
A 2 B 4 C 6 D 8 E 10



**TICKET SALES DEADLINE
3RD MARCH**



A NIGHT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CLASS OF 2025

YEAR 11 PROM

TICKETS £35

AVAILABLE ON PARENTPAY

Friday	Time	Location
04 July, 2025	7:00 - 11:00pm	MER

Prom passport success required to attend
See Prom Committee or Mrs Cotton for more information

Design & Technology

Year 10 Lamp Project



Year 10 student Taulant made this impressive chess board after school. He 3D printed the pieces and designed the chess board on the laser cutter.



MET celebrated National Apprenticeship Week - #NAW2025!

Monday 10 - Sunday 16 February 2-25
This year's theme: 'Skills for Life'

We know that school is all about learning, but it's also about preparing for life beyond school and it's never too early to start!

Apprenticeships are becoming hugely popular with both students and employers - with opportunities to Earn while you Learn from age 16 - until potentially any working age! Opportunities are available from Level 2 (GCSE level) to Level 7 (Masters Degree Level) in a wide variety of industries! The benefits include work experience / learning 'on the job', gaining a qualification, and no student debt (all qualifications - including for Degree Level apprenticeships are paid for by the employer!).

From students from Year 7-11 at Maiden Erlegh Reading have been encouraged to take part in activities inside and outside of school - including:

- Watching videos about apprenticeships
- An Apprenticeship Quiz time - as a Tutor Group
- Exploring resources via Google Classroom
- Listening to subject teachers share about apprenticeship opportunities related to their subject
- Attending our 'MET Virtual Apprenticeships Information Evening

Large screens in school have been showing information slides about #NAW2025 info.

If you would like to watch the short videos shared with students - please just click on the links below.

- Day 1: Apprenticeships - an overview: [Apprentices Are Amazing: Short Film - Amazing Apprenticeships](#) (1.26 mins)
- Day 2: Army apprenticeships: <https://youtu.be/W1e3EKJSuUI> (1.54 mins)
- <https://youtu.be/cer5c21kcJg> (2.17 mins)
- Day 3: Green apprenticeships: [Green Apprenticeships: Short Film - Amazing Apprenticeships](#) (11.07 mins)
- Day 4: BBC apprenticeships: [Apprenticeships at the BBC](#) (1.27 mins)
- Day 5 - Assembly / Apprenticeships Quiz
- ASSEMBLY video - Years 7-11: [The Apprenticeship Assembly Film - Amazing Apprenticeships](#) (6.47 minutes)

On Tuesday 11 February 2025 - we welcomed students, parents & guardians, and staff to our 'Virtual Apprenticeships Information Event' where we heard from current students applying for apprenticeships & current apprentices - who provided top-tips on how to prepare for & navigate the application process; as well as representatives from Activate Learning and AWE - both of whom



support/offer apprenticeships. CTM Pathway also shared how they provide support for students in how to apply + a wide range of events for both students and parents & guardians.

We are hugely grateful to all who attended an a recorded copy of the event will be added to the Maiden Erlegh Trust website soon!

Please see upcoming CTM Pathway events:

21 Feb - In-Person Student Taster Day Part 1

Year 10 - **All You Need To Know About AWE Nuclear Security Technologies - For Year 10 (In-Person) - Pathway CTM**

28 May - In-Person Student Taster Day Part 2 - **AWE Nuclear Security Technologies Insight Day: Explore Opportunities, Shape Your Career - Pathway CTM**

17 June - In-Person Student & Parent Insights Event - **Apprenticeship & Opportunities at AWE Nuclear Security Technologies For Parents & Students - Pathway CTM**

Students can register with CTM Pathway and events are specifically arranged for parents & guardians - please find details here: <https://pathwayctm.com/>

Thank you for encouraging your young person to start thinking and preparing for their future - including exploring the possibility of an apprenticeship.

Mrs Finlason, Trust Careers Adviser

Year 10



Half way through another great year for year 10. First PPE completed and they locked in. Prepared and tried their hardest to achieve their potential.

Can't wait to see the second half of the year. Work experience and the final lead up to year 11. Keep going year 10.

Mr Sparks

Year 11

Congratulations to Year 11 who have sat their second and final PPEs at MER! For many, this will have tested their resilience and revision, putting everything they have learned and worked for into practice. To sit the exams takes courage, confidence and commitment, well done to you all. Now, we are fast heading to the end of your

time at MER and the final checkpoint: the GCSEs. Keep Prom and Leavers celebrations in mind as encouragement, there are tests ahead but also, so much excitement! Keep working hard, reflect and revise as best as you can. We know you can do this!

Mrs A Cotton





SCHEME AT RISK OF ENDING DUE TO LACK OF VOLUNTEERS

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.



Maiden Erlegh Independent Project Presentation and Award Evening

On Tuesday 11 February we held the Maiden Erlegh Independent Project presentation and celebration event. The students had to work hard to choose a topic area, conduct fully evaluated research, construct a 1500-word essay using references, and present their findings to staff, students and parents at the presentation evening. In addition, they had to document their learning throughout the project.



Whilst they had some guidance from staff volunteers who supervised the projects, the bulk of their work was done independently over the summer holidays to complete the projects. Six students gained the Gold Award this year which is a fantastic achievement, and one student, Shivi, finished her third project in as many years, all of which attained the Gold Award! I look forward to a new cohort of students signing up for the programme in June 2025.

Mr Tomsett



Geography goes digital!

It has been a long held ambition of the geography department to do more to give our students digital mapping skills using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software. This half term Year 7 have been introduced to Digimaps, using it to create routes and get used to plotting points. It was brilliant to see so many students approaching their learning with such a mature attitude and gaining confidence with the software so quickly. We will build skills in this software over the years to come, using it to display data the students collect, and will introduce it to current Year 8 and Year 9 students later in the academic year.

Mr Tomsett





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

Sports

Year 7

Year 7 boys have had successful fixtures with Basketball against River Academy and making it to the semi-finals of the Reading Schools 5aside tournament. The girls have had also had multiple outings for the girls football league this year too.



Handball

U16 girls played in a local league where they played 3 of the games on the same night playing MES, Bohunt and Oakbank, some resilient performances led to a 4-2, 5-2 and 2-2 draw respectfully. Hopefully the girls who played enjoyed themselves and also with good prep towards their GCSE moderation.

U15 and U16 Handball has been busy the under 16 local league games were competitive fixtures played against MES and Bohunt, again which was great exposure for GCSE grading and experience, the boys beat MES 11-8 and a narrow loss against Bohunt, with them striking late on to snatch the game 9-8.



However the U15 got a chance for redemption with many of them playing up against the U16 in the league they had the chance to play in the National

Championship local round in these games, I am proud to announce they won both games 8-4 against MES and redemption against Bohunt winning 8-7 this time round. This team progress to the Regional round in Bournemouth where they will play against local counties such as Surrey, Dorset and Hampshire in the hope to progress to a further stage

Badminton

A local game against Reading boys school of GCSE students brought 32 students together from both school to test out their skills in Badminton against students from another school.

Lastly house competitions have been running in PE lessons this half term, looking at sport knowledge in quizzes, dodgeball, capture the flag and Volleyball. All students have embraced being in their houses and competing for DREAM points against each other, showing good sportsmanship along the way. However the important part, who are the winners.. In 3rd place collecting 10,640 DREAM points are Triton. 2nd place collected 11,350 DREAM points and the winners 12,600 DREAM points. The winners are... Phoenix, meaning Griffin were runners up.

Mr Blakeway

D DETERMINATION IN ALL WE DO
R RESPECT FOR OTHERS
E EXCELLENCE IN OUR WORK
A ATTITUDE FOR SUCCESS
M MATURITY IN OUR CHOICES

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Click button for our latest Safeguarding Newsletter

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 2025	
	6 January - 14 February
Spring Dates	24 February - 4 April

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.