



The Pulse

Aim High, Be Inclusive and Work Together

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Another term whizzes by, thirty days, six weeks and Spring has already sprung!

As ever, staff and students have been working incredibly hard during that time to make the most of the opportunities available to maximise experiences and success.

Year 11 are homing in on their GCSE exams next term, with the final lap ahead and the finishing line in sight. Preparation has gathered pace this term with the results of the PPE2 exams, providing welcome confirmation for some that they are doing all the right things and are on track for success, while for others, the results have served as a useful wake up call that more work needs to be done! Alongside their studies, Year 11 have also been afforded the opportunity to meet representatives of MES, The Wren and Bulmershe schools, to discuss their Sixth Form applications.

The Easter holiday will provide some useful and important time to take stock, recharge the batteries and to knuckle down to some serious revision ahead of the start of the exams in early May. This term has also been important for our Year 9 cohort, who have shown impressive focus and maturity when considering their most suitable GCSE options for Year 10 & 11. It has been a very informative and smooth process in all, with every application submitted by the deadline and almost 100% of first choices being confirmed.

Among the many highlights at MER this half term has been the exciting variety of activities organised by Ms Khan and the Science department, as part of the National focus in schools on British Science week. In fact, there was so much to pack in that the week was in fact a fortnight of fun; lab coat competition; mealworm taxis; home experiments; guest speakers from

the University of Cambridge and Imperial College. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the story of the MER chicks, their "hatching" watched my thousands of followers on our own MER You Tube channel, which reached viewers as far as Nigeria! Thank you to the Science team for bringing the world of science to life for so many of our students at MER.



It's always a proud moment to welcome back any of our MER alumni into the school; on Wednesday 12 March we hosted our ex-Year 11s to present them with their GCSE certificates. It was also a pleasure to invite our guest speakers, Marie Withers and Edith Rigby, two of our School Advisory Board members to join us to present the certificates.

It was also a privilege to host our seven UK International Maths Challenge winners of the Gold Award to have hot chocolate with me and Mrs Gibbs; speaking to them about their achievements was very inspiring and humbling, especially as someone who was never a great mathematician! It was also striking that each of the group had very clear and ambitious career goals for the future.

Looking further ahead, there is much to be excited about for the summer term; on the back of Miss Davies' successful campaign to raise funds through the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme, we are pleased to be able to launch our free Breakfast Club to all students from the 22 of April. We hope that this initiative will provide our students with the fuel and energy they need to make a strong start to their day.

On Thursday 8 May we are very much looking forward to our annual whole school

CALENDAR

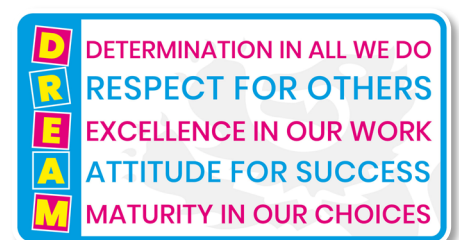
22 April	START OF TERM
22 April - 2 May	Year 10 PPEs
24 April	MHST Parent Evening Exam Stress
29 April	Year 7 Progress Evening
8 May	GCSEs Start
8 May	School Production Matilda Jr
12 May	Biology Challenge

production of Matilda, rehearsals are in full swing, Ms Zubairy- Moore and Mr Butchers are working hard to bring this spectacle together, all we need now is the support our community to be a part of the audience and to be thoroughly entertained.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to announce that our school was one of only three schools in Reading to be oversubscribed with admissions into Year 7 for the 2025-26 academic year; we have received 494 applications for 180 places, 289 of which are for first or second choice places. I am pleased that these numbers confirm that MER continues to be the school of choice for our local community.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter break, we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 22 April.

Will Graham
Headteacher



Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

BREAKFAST CLUB

STUDENTS ONLY

GLUTEN & DAIRY FREE CATERED FOR

Toast & Spreads

FREE TRIAL STARTS WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL

MUST ARRIVE IN THE ATRIUM BETWEEN 8:00-8:15AM

Funded through Tesco Stronger Starts Scheme

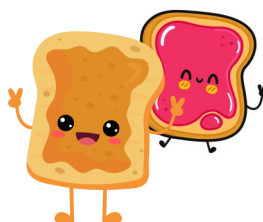
We are delighted to launch a trial of our new Free Breakfast Club initiative – starting on **Wednesday 22 April** and running daily.

As we all know, breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so students who arrive at school between **08:00-08:15** will be able to come in and help themselves to a slice of toast and choose from a selection of spreads to go with it.

This has been made possible by funding from Tesco's Stronger Starts campaign with the help of everyone who chose us to put their blue coins into when shopping at Tesco stores over the Christmas period – so thank you to everyone who supported us!

Whilst we do have the funding from Stronger Starts, that won't last forever, so if you are able to donate some money to enable us to keep this initiative running then we would be most grateful – you can do so via our [Parent Pay Shop](#), just scroll down to the bottom to make a donation in increments of £5 (so if you want to donate £5, you would select a quantity of 1, if you want to donate £20 you would select a quantity of 4 and so on).

Thank you!



Year 8

Over 110,000 DREAM points later, we have absolutely smashed the first two terms of Year 8! Time does fly when you are having fun!

Year 8 have been working exceptionally hard this term and have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm. The feedback I've received has been extremely encouraging, with many noting how Year 8 truly excelled in their various activities and how our students are maturing into the MER students we want them to be.



I'm especially proud of how well the Boys Football Team and the Girls Netball Team have been performing. Both teams have demonstrated outstanding teamwork, determination, and skill. Their dedication is clearly paying off, and we can't wait to see them continue to thrive!

Once again, the dedication and participation in extracurricular activities have been remarkable. From football fixtures to debating club and the school production, our students continue to shine outside the classroom. We're eagerly anticipating MER's production next term. I have also enjoyed watching the year group respect the holy month of Ramadan and it has been amazing to see diversity championed within our school.

Well done, Year 8, for being absolute rockets! Let's continue to aim for the moon and keep pushing to be top of the DREAM point leaderboard!

Have a great break, stay safe and come back rested and ready to hit the final term for 6!

Mr Carpenter



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

BERKSHIRE
Maestros



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

TellMi Youth Advisory Board



Mokshita in year 11 has been selected to be part of the **TellMi Youth Advisory Board** team. TellMi is a safe, anonymous app where you can talk about absolutely anything. From anxiety to autism, dating to depression, or self-harm to self-esteem, sharing your experiences with the awesome TellMi community helps you to



Hi everyone!

I'm Mokshita from year 11, and I'm thrilled to share my journey of joining the amazing team at TellMi! When I first discovered the mission behind TellMi—creating a supportive community for young people—I felt an instant connection. It's a place where empathy and understanding come together, and I just knew I wanted to be a part of it. Helping others has always been close to my heart. As an Anti-Bullying ambassador, I've worked hard to advocate for kindness and support among my peers. Through this role, I've learned so much about the challenges many face, and I'm genuinely honored to bring that experience to TellMi.

I believe everyone deserves to be heard and valued, and I'm here to make that happen! Joining the TellMi team is not just a new opportunity for me; it's a chance to make a real difference in the lives of others. I look forward to working with passionate individuals who care deeply about creating positive change. Together, we can build a safe space where everyone feels comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings.

Here's to a future filled with hope, kindness, and connection.

To learn more about TellMi visit <https://www.tellmi.help/what-is-tellmi>

Year 7

Well done to all of Year 7 who have been showing the MER way this term. It's been a very busy and tiring term and I am sure you will all have a much needed rest during the Easter break.

I want to add a congratulations to the students that participated in the first Maiden Erlegh Trust Badminton tournament. You played with grit and determination and deserved the 6 wins you managed to achieve!

Mr Hibbins

Year 9

I am so proud of how mature Year 9 were when choosing their options. We had all forms completed by the deadline, and some great conversations about what to choose. I am looking forward to seeing them thrive in their option subjects in Year 10.

We've had a great Spring term and I can't wait to see what the Summer term brings!

Miss Ryan



UK International Maths Challenge



Here are the gold winners of the recent UK international maths challenge. Competition was fierce! Three of these winners also went on to the subsequent kangaroo rounds. Here are the first four questions from the paper they sat, can you solve them?

1. Which one of the following expressions has a value closest to 0?

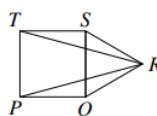
- A $2 \times 5 - 8 \times 3$ B $3 \times 4 - 7 \times 4$ C $4 \times 3 - 6 \times 5$ D $5 \times 2 - 5 \times 6$ E $6 \times 1 - 4 \times 7$

2. What is the remainder when 2652134 is divided by 13?

- A 1 B 2 C 3 D 4 E 5

3. 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



4. 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

Year 10

As I come to the end of my last term at MER, I reflect on the incredible journey Year 10 have gone on.

It has been an absolute honour to serve Year 10 as their Head of Year for the past two years.

They have been an incredible year group to lead. Their resilience, hard work and spirit have made every day rewarding.

To Year 10, keep pushing yourselves, supporting one another and aiming high. You have so much potential and I can't wait to hear about your future successes.

Good Luck and Goodbye.

Mr Sparks



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



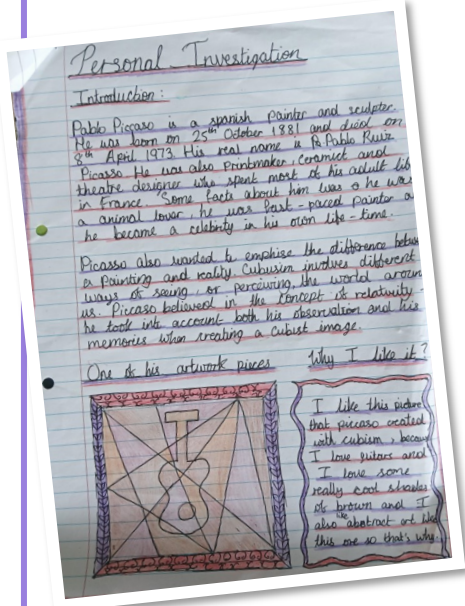
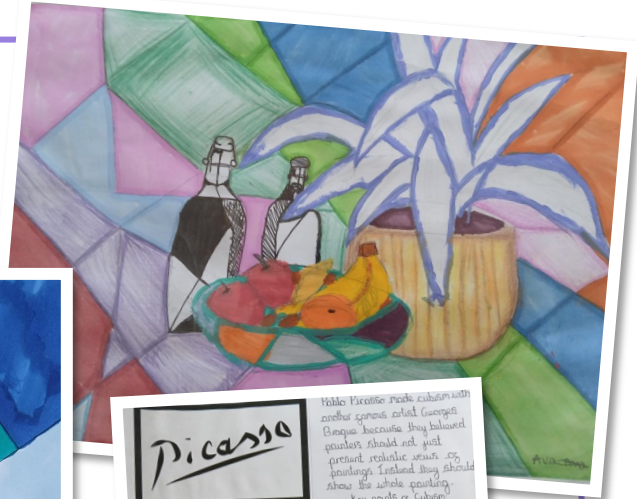
0118 929 6020



governors@maidenerleghtrust.org

Art

Year 7's Personal Investigation was looking into the Art Movement of Cubism, in particular Picasso where they looked into how Picasso created his work then they had to make their own piece inspired by him.



For year 8's Personal Investigation, they looked at African Art and Textiles. In particular, the direct effect it has on popular culture, for example the work of Ruth E Carter a costume designer for the film Black Panther.

Our year 8's have not only written about her work but also made some fabulous garments and accessories.



Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Presents



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.

Book by
DENNIS KELLY

Music & Lyrics by
TIM MINCHIN

Thursday 8 May 2025

Doors open at 5:00 pm / Performance begins promptly at 5:30 pm

At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Adult - £6 / Under 18 - £4 / Under 7 free of charge

Payment via ParentPay only

Director Ms ZM

Music Director Mr Butchers

Stage Manager Mina kitsiou

Lighting Shaelon Hamblin

Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical JR.* is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International, New York, NY
(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 7-16 MARCH 2025

This term, our students have been engaging in a variety of exciting scientific activities that have sparked curiosity and deepened their understanding of the world around them.

Our Year 10 students explored the impact of changing environments on mealworm taxis, conducting investigations to observe how these small creatures respond to different stimuli. This practical experiment allowed them to apply scientific principles in a hands-on setting.

Year 7 took part in the highly anticipated 'Lab Coat Competition of the Year', showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm for science. In addition, they conducted a fascinating 'Science at Home' experiment, where they created their own lava lamps—bringing chemistry to life in a fun and interactive way.

In keeping with this year's science theme, we delivered a special lesson on Animal Adaptations, where students discovered some of the planet's most extraordinary organisms. From creatures that thrive in extreme environments to those with unusual survival strategies, students were amazed by the weird and wonderful diversity of life.

Our Year 8 and 9 students turned their attention to environmental science,



exploring ways to improve air quality and ventilation in public spaces. Using resources provided by University College London, they investigated innovative



Students, staff, and families eagerly watched in real time as chicks hatched via our new YouTube channel, @MERSCIENCE-bs6—an unforgettable experience that brought the wonders of biology to life.

We were also privileged to host inspiring guest speakers who shared their expertise and career journeys. Jamie Hartup from the University of Cambridge visited to discuss his pathway into conservation and related careers, offering valuable insights into the importance of protecting our planet. Additionally, Dr Hassan Khan from Imperial College London delivered an engaging careers talk on Medicine, with students enthusiastically asking insightful questions about the profession.

It has been a fantastic term filled with hands-on learning, inspiring talks, and unforgettable experiences! We look forward to more scientific exploration in the coming months.

Ms Khan

solutions to make indoor environments healthier for all.

A highlight of the term was our whole-school overnight Livestream, which reached viewers as far away as Nigeria!



CHANGE & ADAPT
CHANGE & ADAPT

Year 11 Information Evening

On 25 March, Mrs Cotton hosted Year 11 Information Evening 2 for Parents. This year, a simultaneous workshop was delivered for students by Mr Mitchell, exploring the power of metacognition to support our students with their active and productive revision.

Parents were guided in how to support students with their examinations as well as coping with exam stresses and

anxiety. They were then welcomed by our Heads of English, Maths and Science who were able to offer tailored, 1:1 advice on how to succeed in core subjects.

It was a wonderfully encouraging evening with parents and students all leaving with more information and confidence than on arrival!

Mrs Cotton

Year 11



Year 11, your final few weeks at MER are upon us. It's time to really knuckle down and make every lesson, count! Ask the burning questions, seek the answers and support you need. We have complete faith in your ability and futures; reach for the stars and wishing you the very best of luck!

Mrs Cotton

DREAM

GCSE Award Evening

On 12 March, we welcomed our Year 11 Leavers back to MER to collect their GCSE Certificate and join us in celebrating our DREAM award winners. It was fantastic to see so many old faces, returning to us with bright faces. We invited all students to join our MER Alumni, and hope that they lead the way for our future generations, sharing stories of success and adventure.

A special thank you to Edith Rigby and Marie Withers for their delivery; it was a pleasure to welcome members of our wider community to speak with students and guests, inspiring students with their experience.

Congratulations to Tina, Tom, Sanjana, Aparajita and Noah for their exceptional achievements, representing the MER Way whilst here with us in Year 11.

Mrs A Cotton



It's fantastic to see you back – so many of you are now so different to the faces we remember; in what seems a flash, you have returned older, wiser and having begun whole new chapters of your lives.

Though MER for you may be a distant memory, for us, it only feels like yesterday that we were saying goodbye to you and marking your Year 11 milestones – outside in the forecourt on Leavers Day, as you danced your way home from Prom and as we waved you off with your results.

Whole cohorts of students leave us every year, but only a handful of those groups – in my experience as a Head of Year, leave us with a lasting impression; their own legacy.

When I first met you at the start of Year 10, I remember being told that you were going to be my biggest adventure yet. Admittedly, I wondered at first whether that was something to be excited about – but speaking to you today, I have to say that of all the cohorts I have led, you truly were the group I am the most proud of.

You are the year who weren't just students; those who I shape, teach and lead. In fact, you are the first cohort who really taught me the meanings of resilience, compassion and unity.

I feel it would be fair to say that each of you, at some point in the two years we worked together, shared with me an obstacle; seeing you rise to the challenges you faced, take on every opportunity presented to you with appreciation and courage – it was nothing short of outstanding. Now, you sit here as young adults with successful stories to tell, and whose legacy I now share with my new Year 11s.

We hope that MER doesn't become a distant memory for you, but that you look back and take with you through life a lesson taught, a moment of pride and an experience gained. You will have heard us ask you to keep in touch – we mean this not as a passing phrase but really do hope that you share with us the road ahead, and work with us to inspire the next generation.

Congratulations once again Class of 2019. Whilst I wish you the very best and say farewell, remember – it's never truly goodbye.

Mrs Cotton

Inter-Trust Sport

Exciting & varied sports events designed by our Heads of PE for all of our students in all of our schools

From Badminton to Ultimate Frisbee —
get involved, try something new, have fun
& build confidence



Opportunities For Everyone | Year Round | Celebrating Our Values |
Recognising Participation, Effort, Team Work & Leadership

Look out for information and updates on school notice boards, websites and social media

#METSport #TeamMET
#ProudOfOurSchools

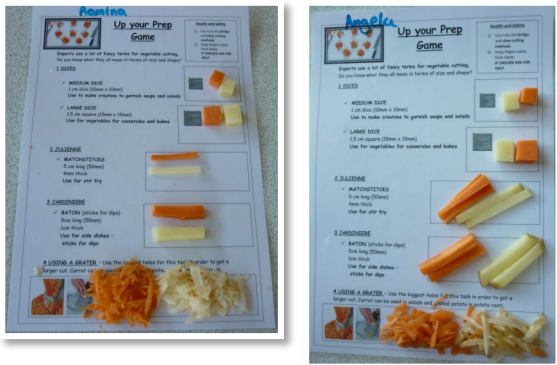
Food & Nutrition

Let's get Cooking!

It has been busy term in the Food department. The Foundation year groups (Y7, Y8, Y9) have recently rotated and are getting familiar with the Food room as well as showcasing their practical skills. Look out for your name being mentioned on the 'Chef of the Term'.

Y7 Knife skills challenge:

Our Y7 students were really excited to take on this challenge and see how accurate they can be in using a sharp knife whilst preparing a carrot and potato. Did you know that there is a technique called the 'Bridge and Claw' method?



Y7 Pasta in a Jar:

Our Y7 students really embraced this practical showing how creative they can be with pasta. The end results were fantastic. Did you know to cook 'al-dente' pasta only takes 12 mins!



Y8 Macaroni Cheese:

Our Y8 students were challenged with making a creamy, lump free Roux sauce. How do you think they did?



Y9 Trial dishes:

Our Y9 students are producing dishes linked to British/International cuisines. This year they will focus on presentation skills and being introduced to dessert dishes. They have really enjoyed making and decorating cheese cakes.



Y9 Trial dishes: Egg challenge, Cheese cake and Quiche



Y10 Practical skills:

Our Y10 students continue to build upon their practical skills in the Food room. This year is about producing more complex dishes and taking the opportunity to present their dishes to restaurant style. Not easy in one hour!

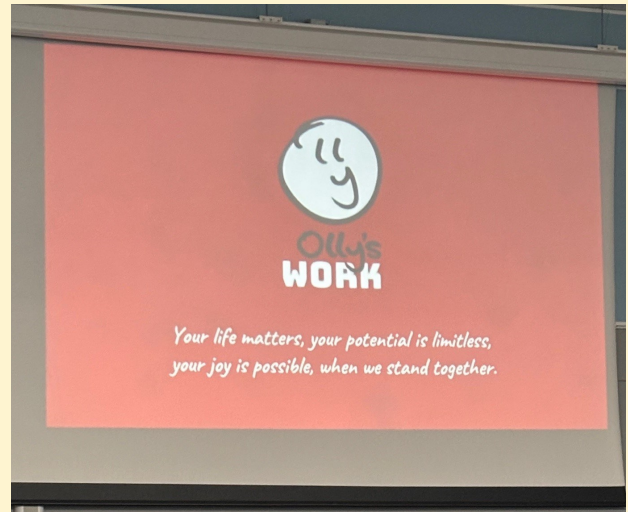


Y10 Practical skills: Butterfly Chicken, Focaccia Bread and Cheese Souffle

Amanda Stephens – Olly's Work

On Wednesday 2 April we welcomed Amanda Stephens, Olly Stephens' mother, to talk to our year 9 students around Olly's story and Olly's Work, the charity set up in his name. This was an important talk around the dangers of knife crime and offered a moving personal message for the students to consider. Students engaged brilliantly with the talk and took the opportunity to ask questions of Amanda at the end. This was a brilliant opportunity to further expand our proactive safeguarding work and we were very grateful for Amanda giving up her time to talk to the students, and sharing her personal, deeply emotional, story.

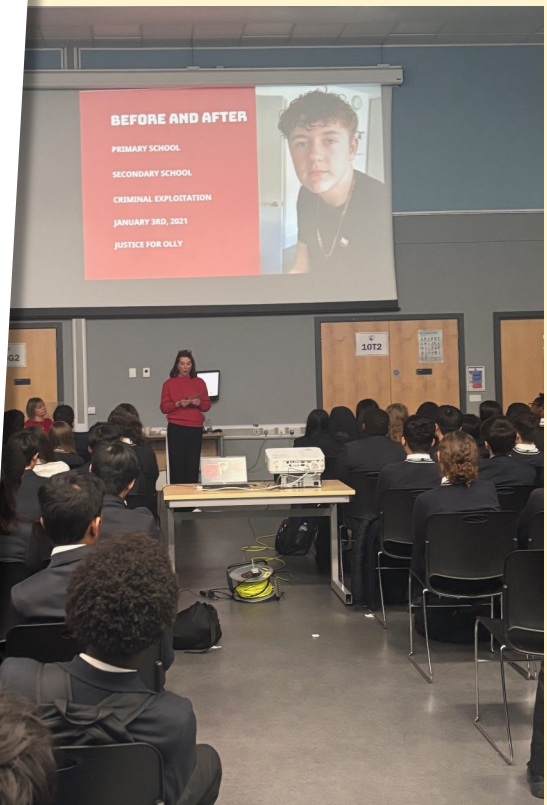
Miss B Davies



I hope, as Olly's Mum, you will remember, that through our positive thoughts, feelings and actions, we can all work together to make a difference and prevent this happening to anyone else.

We want to leave you with 10 clear messages.

1. Be kind.
2. Talk to your friends, family or a trusted adult if you have any worries or concerns about anything.
3. If someone offers you something that seems too good to be true say no. Money, clothes, trainers, Xbox, alcohol, cigarettes, nothing is for free.
4. A knife will not protect you, it is more likely to cause harm to you. Never carry a knife. Remember that the majority of young people do not carry knives, despite what you might see online.
5. There is no safe place on a body to stab anyone. One stab wound could kill.
6. You always have a choice. Remember every decision you make, there will be a consequence.
7. Speak out. If it is wrong, say no. Tell others not to do it.
8. Do not believe everything you see online, it is not always real. Think, could this be fake?
9. You are important, you are loved, you have a future, have fun and enjoy being young.
10. Social media can be an unkind place. There is a world out there. Go out and enjoy it.





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.





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@maidenerlegtrust.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@maidenerlegtrust.org



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

Sports

A busy half term and much sport happening. The boys football leagues have come and gone for our U12, U14 and U16.

The U12 had some difficult opposition playing Bohunt, JMA, Reading boys and Maiden Erlegh School. After an early defeat against Maiden Erlegh School the U12 always had an uphill battle to finish high up the table, but after some fantastic results against the like of JMA and Reading boys the U12 got back on track. The boys finished well and came 3rd place out of 12 teams a really strong start to their football journey at MER.

The U14 a mix of year 8 and 9 boys have just come to a close. They have had some highs and lows this season, starting positively beating Blessed Hugh 4-1, they then struggled against Theale Green. A big positive they were the only team not to lose to top of the league in Highdown. However with their final game to play against Willink and the table being a very tight one, a win would have left us second a loss second from bottom. Even though taking the lead they boys had a narrow 2-1 loss unfortunately .

The U16 a mix of year 10 and 11 boys have been fantastic so far this season winning all of their games. They have one final game to play against Oakbank school this Thursday. This should be a great game with both teams unbeaten in the season so far and the winner of the

league will be decided on who wins that game. Hopefully it will be a great send off for the year 11 students who have represented the school throughout their time at MER.

The handball team had another cup run, they were able to beat The Wren 12-8 in the semi finals, however when playing in the final against Charters School the boys become stuck and could not get that one over the line, but have much too look forward to with their regional finals coming up soon.

U14 Netball have had a tough season, however have started to gel. Not many experienced netballers but they have given 110% effort every time they have represented the school and after some tough losses, were able to end the season on a win against the The Wren school.

Also it has been the start of the Maiden Erlegh Trust games in which we were able to take 8 year 7 students over to River for a Badminton tournament in which they all did extremely well and just missed out on second place.



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

	22 April - 23 May
Summer Dates	2 June - 23 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.