



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

It is with a heavy heart to say a “fond farewell” to everyone in the MER Community, in what is my last post as Headteacher of our fantastic school.

The last three years has been a “roller coaster” ride; one that has had its ups and downs, but one that I will most definitely remember forever!

The beauty and strength of this school is our togetherness, this community feel is one that I have never experienced in any of my previous, six, schools. It is something that will always stay with me and that I will miss.

So many of the events that we’ve held at MER this half term has amplified our ambition to build on our diverse and inclusive community.....

The Year 6 Transition Day and family BBQ was a wonderful occasion, hundreds of parents attending after school for the food,

to meet with staff and other parents, and to receive some key messages and information to help with the smooth transition from Year 6 into 7 from September.

Our first ever Alumni event was another huge success, with a great turn-out from the students, and many of the staff, who started at MER as our first cohort, back in 2016.

Our Cultural Diversity Day, where students came dressed as their “cultural hero” and shared food, that they and their families had prepared, during the lunchtime food fair, was another magnificent display of inclusion, acceptance and celebration of difference, which remains a core strength at the heart of our school.

We also hosted our Arts showcase and



CALENDAR

3 September	YEAR 7 ONLY START OF TERM
4 September	ALL STUDENTS (YEARS 8-11) START OF TERM

Awards evening on 17 July giving us the opportunity to celebrate the amazing achievements of so many of our students, with their families.

At the end of the term, we say goodbye to Ms Allsop, Ms Khan, Mr Davison, Miss Martin, Mr Toole, Mr Kaloudis, Ms Bryant and Mr Dibs. It is always sad when staff (and students) leave us, but they go with our thanks for all their hard work and, with our best wishes for whatever their next challenge and adventure is going to be.

Finally, can I wish you all a sensational summer, have fun, stay safe and look after each other.

Best wishes,
Will Graham

Oxford Trip Reflection

The Oxford trip was an exciting and unforgettable opportunity for some selected students at MER. It was a fantastic chance for all involved. Upon our arrival, we met with an MER alumnus who gave us a tour and shared his experience of going from MER all the way to the prestigious Oxford University, where he studied Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. This helped us understand what it takes to reach our dream universities and made us realise that it could be any of us studying at Oxford, regardless of our backgrounds.

We were shown around Worcester College and later attended a lecture on the definition of numbers as part of a Philosophy and Maths taster session.

Later we were allowed to explore the town and the university on our own in groups of threes. I personally visited Balliol and Christ Church College, learning many things about life at Oxford. I would like to personally thank the staff who arranged the trip and the college workers who accommodated us. *Robert M. and Oscar R.*



Year 7

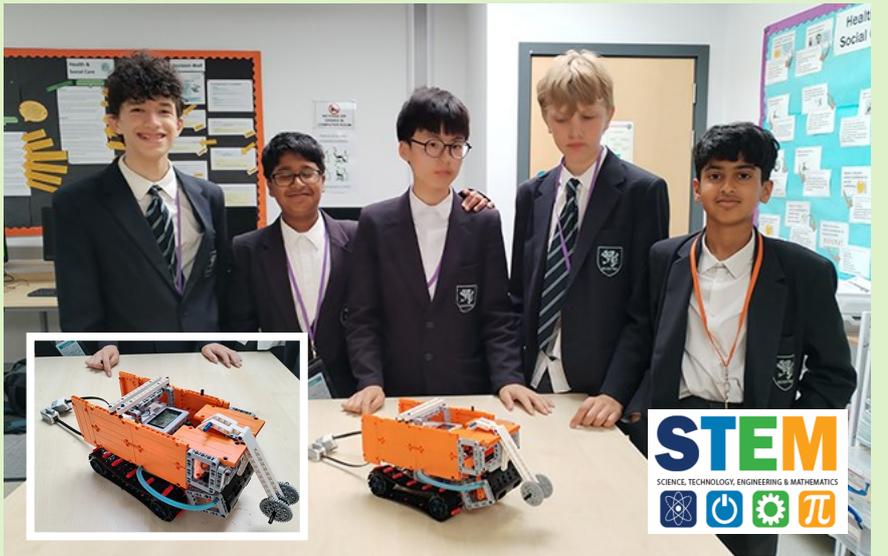
Year 7, can you believe it has been a year since we met. Your MER journey has only just started, yet you've all made such brilliant progress and contributions to the school. Whether that is fantastic homework, well constructed answers in lesson, resilience on sports fixtures or upholding the MER way in the corridors.

Well done on an incredible year and also an incredibly long year.

What is now important is that you spend time with family and friends, rest, enjoy and play during the 6 week holiday.

I will welcome you all back with open arms in September, ready to start Year 8.

Mr Hibbins



Samarth, Kasper, Nash, Botond and Ben made an all terrain vehicle which can be programmed to move and do simple tasks out of Lego!

European Space Agency (ESA) Competition Create a Moon base

Ben, Kasper & Botond's Team entered a national competition hosted by the European Space Agency (ESA) to create a Moon base. They designed and created their 3D moon camp using Tinker Cad and ESA thought the design was so good that they published their work on the ESAs website!

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM ACKENSIJUI

Below is a brief description of Team Ackensiju's moon camp:

Ackensiju moon camp is a community developed by multiple countries. It was constructed on the Moon by the Chinese, Finnish and Serbian Space Companies. We have diverse and rich facilities designed by Finland SpaceEKS and include equipment for the exploitation of the natural resources found on the moon. The facilities include a luxurious living quarters and a first of a kind energy generator known as a nuclear power plant. We accept everyone and have an extremely diverse community. We have translators that know 20 different languages including Old English, Latin, German and more. We even accept death sentence



prisoners and people who are in debt to get them back on the right track and their feet. Our diverse community is shown with the different languages and symbols present around the camp.

Us, Ackensiju Moon Camp Company, is proud to be a powerhouse of the space community. As seen by our motto: Fun first, Safety second!



Year 8

And with that the 2025 comes to an end...

It doesn't seem like two minutes ago that you were all sat in the sports hall on Day 1 of your MER journey—and now here we are, nearly halfway through!

You've done an amazing job this year. As a team, we've held our standards high, embraced challenges, and celebrated how brilliant we truly are.

As we head into Year 9, let's make sure we are Ready for a fast start. You'll be getting a new timetable, new groups, and a fresh start. Exciting times ahead!

We'll also begin thinking about your option choices in the Autumn term—so there's plenty to look forward to.

Well done on all your efforts this year on the DREAM point leaderboard!

Have a fantastic summer—make sure you relax, stay safe and get ready to rumble — and I look forward to seeing you as Year 9s in September.

Mr Carpenter



UKMT junior maths challenge

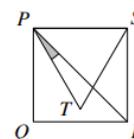
Congrats to our 61 year 7 and 8 students who took part in the UKMT junior maths challenge after school on Thursday 1 May.

Four of our students even made it through to the next round! Well done to: Kyle, Yuvraj, Ayaan, Qasim. They will be competing in the follow up challenges on June 10th.

Are you as bright as our maths challenge competitors?

Try the first 5 questions below!

- What is $\frac{1}{2}$ of 10% of 20 ?
A 1 B 2 C 5 D 10 E 20
- What is the value of $\frac{4444 + 5555}{1111 + 2222}$?
A 3 B 6.5 C 33 D 333 E 3333
- How many of the following are factors of 2025?
15 25 45 75 225
A 1 B 2 C 3 D 4 E 5
- In March 2024, the British runner, Jasmin Paris, became the first woman ever to finish the 100-mile 'Barkley Marathons' in Tennessee. Her finishing time of 59 hours, 58 minutes and 21 seconds meant that she narrowly beat the cut-off time of 60 hours for the event. By how many seconds did Jasmin beat this cut-off time?
A 99 B 109 C 119 D 129 E 139
- The diagram shows the square $PQRS$ and the equilateral triangle PTS . What is the size of the angle RPT ?
A 10° B 12° C 15° D $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ E 30°



And can you do the hardest question on the paper?:

- Given a cube, how many equilateral triangles are there whose vertices are three vertices of the cube?
A 1 B 3 C 6 D 8 E 24

Sparx Star Pupils

Many students have been highly engaged with Sparx over the year which is shown to have a large correlation to progress and exam performance.

In MER this year the students have answers 731,504 maths questions in Sparx.

The students with the highest number of experience points were: Devdarshan (Year 7) Ben (Year 8) Akash (Year 9) Akindu (Year 10). Well done to them for all their hard work! Sparx sent us some badges to commemorate, and we also awarded them with an ice cream each in this hot weather.

Mr Davison





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

The Big Bang STEM Event

On Friday 4th July 2025 the Science Department planned and organised a special event called **The Big Bang STEM Event**.

The special event was themed around Space Travel and Exploration: the science, technology, engineering and mathematics involved in getting humans into Space!

The students who attended were off timetable all day. They were encouraged to participate in different planned activities from making scale models of the solar system to designing and launching a rocket.

These activities were designed to engage and encourage students to build on fundamental skills: problem solving, communication and collaboration within a team.

At the end of the day all students competed in an inter-house rocket launching competition.

The results are as follow:

1st place Phoenix = 220 HPs

2nd place Triton = 161 HPs

3rd place Griffin = 62 HPs

Outstanding Team in Phoenix:

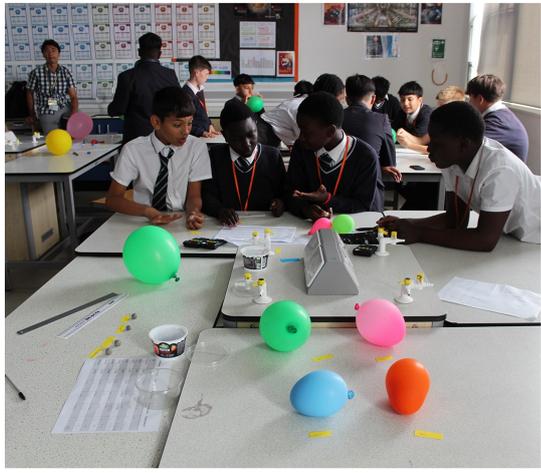
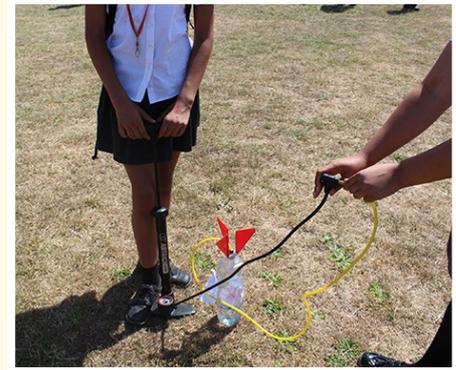
Mohamed S, Stefan D, Abbacar S, Ahamadou S. with 50HPs each

Most HPs in Triton:

Aariz A & Keaton G with 10 HPs each

Most HPs in Griffin:

Aiden W with 8 HPs



Geography field trip

On Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 June, Y10 Geography students visited the village of Lyndhurst and the seaside town of Milford on Sea to carry out their geography fieldwork investigations. They are required to do two investigations for their GCSE Paper 3 exam which will take place next year. In Lyndhurst, students investigated the impact of tourism on the village, carrying out environmental quality surveys, land-use surveys and asking local residents for their views. In Milford on Sea, students looked at the coastal defences to help decide how effective they were in protecting the coast. They measured sediment height along a series of groyne, drew annotated sketch maps of defences



and carried out a bi-polar survey at three points along the coastline to evaluate management at each point.

The students did brilliantly, throwing themselves into their fieldwork and taking it seriously. Locals in Lyndhurst commented to staff that those they had

spoken to were polite and respectful. The Thursday group had to put up with a horrible downpour in Lyndhurst and yet still managed to complete their data collection. Thank you to Year 10 for representing our school so well and also to the staff (Miss Haveron, Ms Allsop and Mr Ali) that give up their time to help organise and run the fieldwork days.

Mr Tomsett



Field Work at Reading Station



On Thursday 19 and Friday 20 June, Year 9 students carried out geographical field work at Reading Station. This was a great opportunity for students to explore the enquiry process and engage in geography outside of the classroom. Students were investigating what impact the 2014 regeneration has had on the local area. They gathered data on the environmental quality of the station, monitoring noise and litter levels, recording land use types and surveying commuter happiness.

The students were fully engaged in their fieldwork showing interest and enthusiasm for their data collection. They interacted positively with the public when gathering their questionnaire responses, with some Year 9 students showing great determination. Staff were approached by the station manager, who praised our students for their conduct, whilst also expressing her eagerness for our field work results.

A huge thank you to our students for their dedication and etiquette and to the staff (Mr Tomsett, Ms Allsop and Mr Ali) that give up their time to help organise and run the fieldwork days.

Miss Haveron



Year 9

Can you believe we are at over halfway through our MER journey already! It doesn't seem two minutes since you were all sat in the sports hall on day 1, and now we are heading into the final two years! You have done an amazing job this year. Together as a team we have held our standards high, relished the opportunities for challenge, and celebrated just how amazing we are. Ahead of Year 10, and the highly anticipated GCSE subjects starting, please make sure you have your uniform and equipment ready for the

first day back. You will have a new timetable, new groups, and a fresh start. Have a fantastic summer, relax, enjoy the sunshine (hopefully!) and I look forward to seeing you as Year 10 in September. Hopefully, if all goes to plan, I will be an Ironman (triathlete) when we next see each other!

Miss Ryan



CLASS OF 2025

A NIGHT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PROM



Year 11's Under the Spotlight Prom took place on Friday 4 July and what a night it was! From grand entrances to photoshoots on our MER red carpet, the night began with glitz and grandeur. Inside, students were treated to their very own pizza van, chocolate fountains, popcorn machines, bouncy castle and VIP photobooth to capture lasting memories. The excitement on their faces as they entered through our red curtains made every minute of planning worthwhile.

Students voted for Prom King and Queen on the night, selecting our very own Deven and Lola as this year's winners. The night also saw awards for our very own MER Hall of Fame winners - the names of which are published in the Leavers Yearbook.

Students danced the night away, with some even helping themselves to complimentary flipflops when they needed to keep partying. It was a night filled with fantastic energy, starlit smiles and Hollywood glamour.

A special thank you to all of the staff who supported on the night, in particular - a very special acknowledgement for Mrs Lone who worked tirelessly alongside Mrs Cotton to ensure every penny was spent getting the night, just right! Also a special thank you to the PTA who supplied funds towards the event and helped make it extra special.

We hope that our Year 11 Prom was a night our students will never forget.

Mrs A Cotton



Work Experience 2025

Year 10 recently undertook a week's work experience, supported by our partnership company EBP. Opportunities offered this year were incredible with placements sourced at employers such as Aston Martin, Westcoast and John Lewis.

The feedback from employers was outstanding, with almost every student scoring 4s and 5s out of 5 on their attitude to work, effort and conduct. Over 95% of our students said in a response survey that they wished to either continue their placement, or undertake further opportunities which demonstrates just how beneficial the programme is on their aspirations and personal development.

We often encourage our students to look outside of the classroom for wider opportunities - many have made links with their employers which will now help them to secure apprenticeships, part time employment and voluntary summer positions. Their commitment to success is admirable and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

A few particular commendations:

Sinica: "A pleasure to have on the team. We've been really impressed with how she's been using her own initiative and being proactive rather than reactive. An asset on the team!"

Sebastian: "A really polite young man who completed all of the tasks he was asked to do. He left us a lovely card and biscuits afterwards too, which was really thoughtful too! A credit to your school."

Zarnain: "We would like to express how proud we are of her outstanding contributions. Zarnain has shown excellent initiative and professionalism. Her polite and respectful attitude towards all staff members was constantly appreciated. We are confident she has a bright future ahead of her."

Mrs A Cotton

Year 10

It's been a fantastic end to the academic year for Year 10 and I am very excited to see what awaits them in Year 11 - from work experience to SSLG interviews, Summer has been busy for Year 10 and with each new opportunity, they've grasped with both hands and flew!

Congratulations Year 10, here's to the final countdown...

Mrs Cotton

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Click button for our latest Safeguarding Newsletter



Hi Everyone,

I hope you had a relaxing weekend and are now refreshed after your busy week with us!

On behalf of the whole BrightSparks team, thank you all for your amazing efforts and contributions during your work experience. We hope you enjoyed your time at Westcoast and took away as much new knowledge as possible. You should all be very proud of yourselves for throwing yourselves into the tasks and projects that were set - we received hugely positive feedback about you from the wider business!

Also, a huge well done to you all on your project presentations! It was great to see the amount of research and enthusiasm you put into them, and your hard work was definitely reflected when you stood up in front of everyone to present your ideas

I have attached your group photos to this email. Hopefully, you should have all also received your parcels that you shipped to your schools last Monday!

We wish you the best of luck for your future endeavours and trust that you will all achieve great things. Should you ever wish to apply for a role at Westcoast, we would be delighted to welcome your application.

Kind Regards,

Nimrah Amjed
HR Assistant
On Behalf of Westcoast Ltd



CLASS OF 2020

Alumni Event – A Celebration of Our Journey

On 27 June, the school proudly hosted its first ever Alumni event: a truly heartwarming occasion that brought together staff and former students from our inaugural year nearly a decade ago. It was an opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and reflect on the incredible journey we've shared in building this school from the ground up.

The evening was filled with laughter, stories, and fond memories of our humble beginnings. Conversations naturally drifted to those early days when lessons were delivered in makeshift classrooms: Science and Drama taught in shared spaces at the UTC, Maths delivered in the canteen, and temporary buildings occupying what is now the staff car park. Despite the challenges, there was a collective spirit of determination and innovation that brought the vision of our school to life. Everyone rolled up their sleeves, adapted, and made it work, and that pioneering energy still defines who we are today.

The most moving part of the event, however, was welcoming back our former students. Every one of them spoke of their time here with genuine warmth

and appreciation. Hearing about their journeys, from continued education to promising careers and exciting personal achievements, was truly inspiring. Many shared how the early experiences and relationships they formed at our school, particularly with their teachers, helped shape their futures. For some the experience at MER clearly influenced their decision to enter their chosen career.

Personally, it was incredibly special to reunite with colleagues who were instrumental in opening the school, those who poured their time, talent, and heart into creating a learning environment from scratch. The sense of shared pride was palpable. Together, we've not only witnessed but helped shape the lives of countless young people, and this event was a wonderful reminder of why we do what we do.

As we look ahead to our ten year anniversary, this event served as a powerful reminder of how far we've come, and of the lasting legacy we are continuing to build.

Mr Butchers





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.



Sports Day 2025

The whole school were involved in this years sports day, whether they were coming out to cheer on their houses or friends. We have had roughly around 350-400 athletes from the school take part in this event in one way or another which was absolutely fantastic to see, so many of our students being actively

involved. Hopefully if your child did well in their race or event they have told you or showed you their medal if they done well enough to collect a medal.

The winners of sports day will be announced in assembly on the last day of term. So stay tuned.



Welcome to our Cultural Day

Cultural Day was a fantastic success. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to come together and share their rich and diverse backgrounds. With over 67 nationalities represented at our school this is a huge part of what makes our school MER.

Over 100 students volunteered to give up their time, money and efforts to provide taste experiences as part of our food fair. Thank you to all the students who took part for their incredible maturity and generosity. Students also spent an hour of their day exploring cultural heroes and learning about heroes from different nations across the world - in line with the theme of the day 'My Cultural Hero'.

In addition, students came wearing their finest cultural dress and raised £533 for Berkshire Refugee Group. This money will go towards supporting in improving the lives of Refugees and people seeking asylum by providing support, advice, promotion, awareness and facilitating integration for the local community. We are very proud of our student community for giving to our local people in this way.

We look forward to Cultural Day 2026 with eager anticipation.

Mrs Harvey

[Refugee Support Group - Berkshire's Refugee Charity](#)





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@maidenerlegustrust.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@maidenerlegustrust.org



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

Sports

An amazing half term of sport. Summer term is always busy with sporting events and we have had many events going on from athletics, softball, sports day, InterTrust athletics and are students helping run sport day at Alfred Sutton.

Year 9 and 10 students have helped run sports day leading events for primary school children. 18 year 9 students helped run the KS1 sports day with each child leading 1 class through 9 different events. Then 24 of our year 10 students led 12 classes around 12 activities in the KS2 sports day. Each student were truly amazing and represented the school with pride but also led sessions with such confidence.

There have been many Reading school and Berkshire athletics events hosted over this summer. We have had some amazing results and over 80 students taking part in athletic events this half term, which is truly amazing. We have had 11 students represent Reading schools at the Berkshire athletics event who were Yr 10 - Isra (1500M), Eman (javelin), Jermaine (100M) yr 9 - Remy (high jump), Johnson (100M) - Yr 8 Salim (300M)- yr 7 - Vivaan (high jump), Joshua (75M), Mary (150M), Naveah (600m) and Elias (150m). A truly

remarkable feat to do so well and 2 of our students were able to collect medals on the day Jermaine and Salim who both missed out on represented England school by 0.2 and 0.7 respectively, which shows the levels they are running at.

As well as this there have been many inter-trust tournaments/events going on, such as athletics where students participated in 5 sports across the day to collect points for the school. In year 7 MER came 2nd place out of River, MES and MECE, which we as a school hosted on a fantastic day. We also came 2nd place overall from year 8-10 with year 8 being the stand out year group

topping the leaderboards. A big shout out to Lorenzo who topped the charts for the most points scored in year 9.

We have also had a softball tournament within in the trust for year 7-8 which we came out winners, winning all of the games played.

We have also had an inclusion sports day which 12 of our students from year 7 with SEN got to take part in a range of activities from golf, archery and bowls. This was a great day where students got to try new sports and activities.

With this in mind if you would to be part of TeamMER for next year this is your opportunity to do so as we are offering you a chance at sponsoring one of our sporting shirts so this is your chance for you to put your company logo. If this is something you are interested in please email me on h.blakeway@maidenerleghtrust.org

Have a great summer
Team PE




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	
Autumn Dates	03 September - 21 October
	03 November - 19 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@maidenerleghtrust.org for support.