



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

Welcome to the first edition of the Pulse for Academic Year 2025-26 and my first as Headteacher at MER. Almost unbelievably, we have already arrived at the end of our first half-term, and I would like to thank students, staff, and families for such a positive and purposeful start to the year. It has been a genuine privilege and pleasure to see our school community live and breathe our DREAM values – determination, respect, excellence, attitude and maturity – day in, day out.

It has been lovely to welcome our new Year 7 to the school, and students joining other year groups this term. They have quickly settled into our routines and the MER Way. Collectively, our students have already amassed over 180,000 positive points. We are also delighted to have welcomed new staff who have joined us; Miss Basset, Miss Thomas, Mr Dean, Mrs Henderson, Mr Rogers, Mrs Rosser, Miss Turnbull, Mr Wheeler, Miss Murray, Mr Brazil, Mr Ali and Mr Kipchumba

I've been delighted to welcome a large number of parents and families into the school this term. We've held a series of Information Evenings for parents of each year group – thank you for engaging with these. These really help set up the year ahead and demonstrate the importance of working together as the 'school triangle' (school, parents and students). Our Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students, our MER Generation 2026, brought the school to life in the evening, and I was proud to show-off our school in action during our popular Open Morning tours.

Beyond classroom-based learning, you will see in this edition of The Pulse, a range of enrichment opportunities available for our students. This half-term we've seen

fantastic sporting successes, with our Girls' Under-16s Basketball team securing their first team sport win.

Students following our Gold Programme have spent the day visiting colleges at Oxford University, to find out more about university life, and we have had visiting performances to support young people's mental health, and Miss Ryan took a small group of students to Leighton Park for a LeadHERship day. Next half term we are looking forward to the annual Harry Potter trip, the MET Careers Fayre, and some theatre trips, amongst many, many more.



I should take this opportunity to draw some key dates to your attention for next term. Our Year 10 and Year 11 students will be sitting their first Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) of the year when we return after the break. Our very popular Student Progress Day will be on Wednesday 17 December and provides an opportunity for parents to meet their child's tutor to review their progress so far. For more information on dates for reports and Parents Evenings, please click here to visit the page on our website. Further details on Parents Evenings will follow nearer the time.

As we move into the next half-term, I am excited to see how our students continue to build on the strong foundations laid so far. We look forward to opening our doors again at 8.30am on Monday 3rd November and welcoming back our students.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish all families a restful and enjoyable break.

Matt Grantham
Headteacher

CALENDAR

3 November	START OF TERM
3 - 12 November	Year 11 PPEs
12 November	MET Ski Trip Information Evening
17 - 20 November	Bebras Computational Challenge
17 November	Harry Potter Trip
18 November	Interclimate Reading Climate Conference
20 November	Year 8 London Theatre Trip - Christmas Carol
21 November	Trust Higher & Further Education Fair
24 November	Year 8 Hollywood Bowl Rewards Trip
25 November	Year 8 Progress Meeting
26 November	Year 10 Pitt Rivers & MNH Oxford Trip
27 November	Year 7 Cinema Reward Trip
3 December	Year 10 Art Trip Oxford
5 December	Year 10 Hollywood Bowl Reward Trip
10 December	Flu Vaccinations Whole School
11 December	Panto South Hill Park
12 December	Living Library - Destination Fair

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Click button for our
latest Safeguarding
Newsletter



Or visit

www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk



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



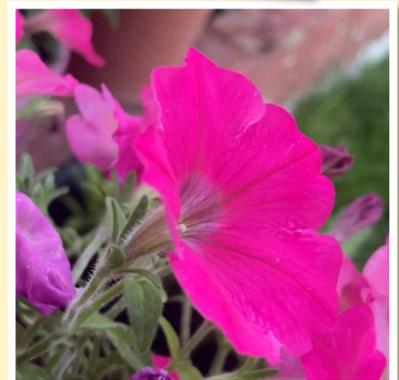
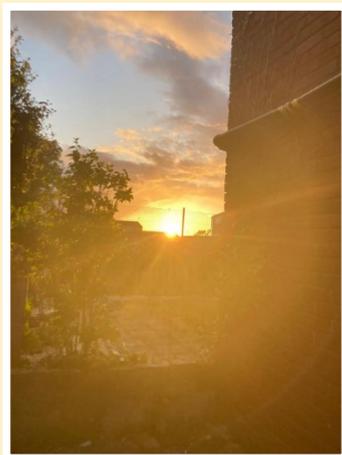
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governors@maidenerleghtrust.org

Photography

Year 7 photography exploring texture in natural forms.



MER Student Council Election

This term students have been involved in establishing our Student Council for 2025/26. The Student Council is a group of students elected by their peers to represent the views of all students and help improve the school. They will work in partnership with staff, parents, and the wider community, giving students a real voice and the opportunity to participate in all aspects of school life.



Students in each year group have put forward their reasons why they should be elected to represent their year group and voting has now commenced. We are very proud of all the students that nominated themselves to act on behalf of their year group and we heard some amazing speeches about how they would ensure all students felt heard and how they would support school improvement.

Head students Akindu and Purnika are keen that a school council representatives follow our school values by meeting the following expectations:

- **Aim High:** Strive to make positive changes and set a strong example for others.
- **Be Inclusive:** Ensure every student's voice is heard and respected.
- **Work Together:** Collaborate with students, staff, and the community to make our school a place we can all be proud of.

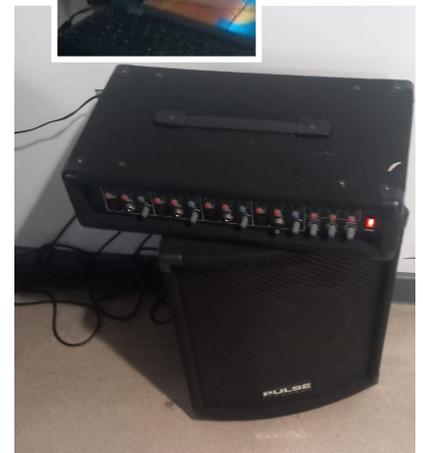
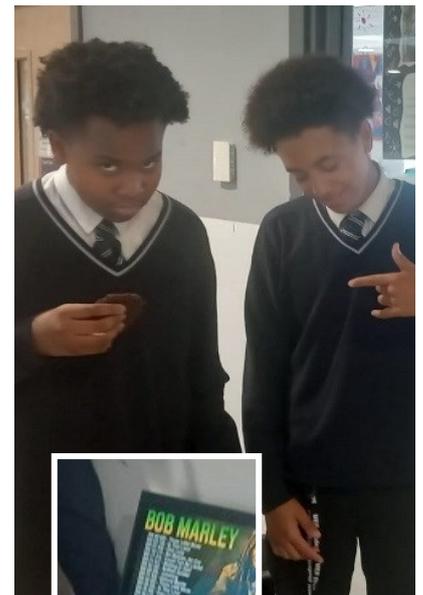
Watch this space to find out the result!

Mrs Redrup



Black History Month was celebrated in many different ways. One of those being a chill atmosphere in the Atrium. Raeanna, Shaelon, Naomi and Ms Z-M played the amazing music of Bob Marley. One of the most celebrated musicians of all time was giving us all a great lunch and breaktime feel. Everyone was 'vibing', even the teachers were hitting the dance floor!

Ms ZM



LeadHERship Conference Day

On Friday 3 October, I had the pleasure of taking 6 Y10 girls to Leighton Park School for a LeadHERship conference day. We had an incredibly inspiring keynote speech from Laura Bates who discussed empowerment, leadership, voice and change, and then a session with Holly Francis from The Female Lead. We had a fantastic day collaborating with other local schools and are very grateful to Leighton Park School for their excellent hospitality and yummy brownies!

Miss L Ryan





Design & Technology

Food Journal Autumn Term 2025

Year 10 – NEA2 Food Preparation (Mock)

Last year, term 5&6 students in Year 10 had to produce 3 final dishes in 3 hours linked to a given assignment brief – International Cuisine.



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

The Year 10 students (now Year 11) were challenged and expected to consider these factors as part of the NEA2 – Food Preparation mock coursework.

Plating food is a simple process of arranging all the components of a meal onto a serving dish. It does not have to be a work of art. In restaurant terms, plating food involves putting a little more thought into how you are setting everything up so that it looks as good as possible.

How do you think our Year 10 students did?

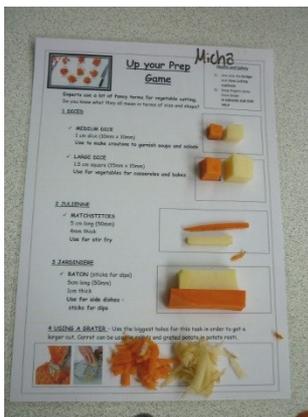


Year 7 – Food Technology

Our Year 7 students are just getting familiar with the Food room and have recently demonstrated their knife skills. "Prep up your game" is a knife skills challenge where students are expected to show how safe and accurate they are at cutting a carrot and potato in many different ways. The department were really pleased with all classes.

Could you have done any better?

Next term, they can look forward to developing practical skills in making Pasta in the Jar and Chicken Nuggets.



Year 10 – GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Our Year 10 students have just started their two-year GCSE course. Their focus this term has been on Food Communities – Fruits and Vegetables.

All their practical dishes have been linked to this topic area. All students are recognising



the need to develop and demonstrate an individual flare for flavours, textures and consider restaurant style presentation techniques/garnishes.

The Fresh Fruit Salad explored the skill of making a syrup as well as accurately cutting up different fruits into 'bite-size' pieces.

How would you accompany this dessert?

Year 11 – GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

This term, Our Year 11 students in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition are focussing on their NEA1 – Food Investigation Assignments. (coursework) This assessment is worth 15% final GCSE grade. Wishing them all the best in completing their final written document. Deadline Tuesday 4 November.

Welcome to

Computer Science and iMedia!



It has been an exciting start to term!

Brand new computers in 145 and 21b as well as brand new mice/keyboards in 101- we came into the term ready and equipped for the year!

Year 7 have settled in well, learning the basics of our ICT systems. Including remembering a username and password. Year 7 have met the challenge and are doing really well settling into the curriculum.

Year 8 have had an exciting unit, learning how to create an app. We have had some brilliant coding skills on display and even better ideas for their own apps.

Year 9 have started the year off strong with Python programming. Trying to remember all the skills from year 8 has been a challenge but we can finally say we are getting there and the majority of them can remember the simple lines of coding.

Our Year 11 GCSE iMedia have hit the ground running with their R095 piece of coursework while Year 10 have started their prep for R094. Pressure is on for all 3 groups to get this done and finished by February! Mrs Redrup and I know you can do it!



Our Year 11 Computer Scientists have come back with an SQL challenge , while Year 10 are learning about the internal components that make up a computer system and how they work. They are showing the work ethic and determination of Computer Scientists already.

Top DREAM points for Computer Science

- Nirvik
- Teja
- Tanveer
- Navaneeth

Top DREAM points for iMedia

- Iqra
- Ameen
- Qasim
- Marwa

In the next half term, we have BEBRAS to look forward to, your teacher will post you some practise on your Google Classroom. GOOD LUCK!

Miss Hancock

Year 7

As we reach the end of our first half term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible start our Year 7s have made. Transitioning to secondary school can be a big step, but our students have shown maturity, enthusiasm, and resilience every step of the way.

A real highlight of the term was our Meet the Tutor Evening. It was fantastic to welcome so many parents and carers into school. Your attendance and engagement in your child's journey make a huge difference, and it was wonderful to see such strong support from home.

Throughout the half term, our students have been recognised regularly through our Tutee of the Week golden star awards which celebrate those who go above and beyond in effort, attitude, and kindness. The standard has been incredibly high, and it's been great to see students supporting one another and taking pride in their achievements.

We also saw brilliant participation in our School Council elections, with many students putting themselves forward and delivering thoughtful speeches. It's clear we have some future leaders in our midst!

One of the most impressive achievements this term is that Year 7 have earned a total of 45,757 DREAM points – the highest of any year group in the school! This is a fantastic reflection of their positive behaviour, focus in lessons, and overall contribution to our school community. Well done, Year 7 – you are officially topping the school leaderboard!

Our Phone Hand-In Initiative has also been a great success, with an average of 43 phones handed in daily. This shows real responsibility and a commitment to keeping school a focused and distraction-free environment.

Thank you for your continued support at home. It's been a brilliant start to the year, and we're so excited for everything still to come.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Miss J Baxter



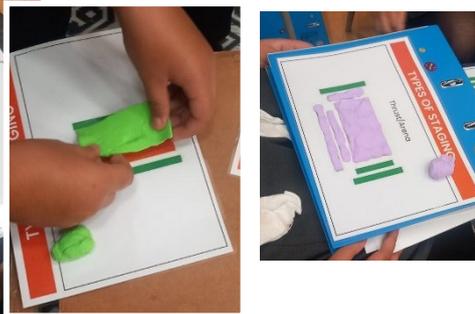
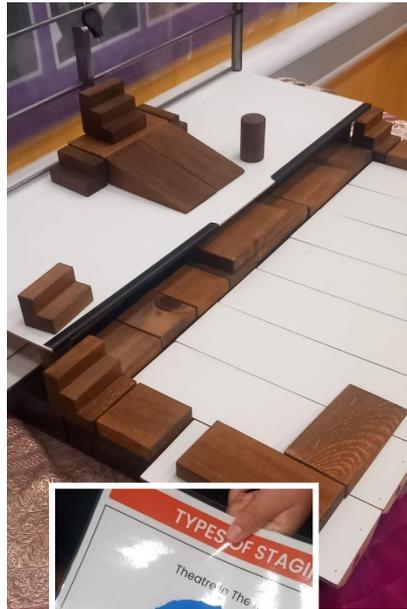
DRAMA

Types of Staging

Year 10 had a very creative time with learning about staging. In their component 3 exam one of the requirements is to know all the main staging types. So, what better way to learn than using soft clay, design mats and lots of ideas.

Here you can see them creating lots of different stage designs and even adding people to their pieces. They were tested on their knowledge and understanding of stage names, at the end of the lesson, and everyone got them all correct! Well done year 10 you are superstars.

Ms ZM



Year 8



Well done Year 8 for your start to the new academic year. Lots of challenges come with moving from Year 7 to Year 8 and you are meeting these head on. Uniform, punctuality and behaviour are improving for the whole year group which is positive. A subtle reminder that we are increasing the amount of rewards we are offering this year. The better your attendance, the more dream points you can earn and that means you are more likely to be rewarded for your excellent efforts. Ensure you make the most of your extended half term by spending time with friends and family, resting and enjoying your time.

Mr Hibbins

Year 9

Well here we are Year 9. One Term down in the Year of Choices. It was great to start of the Year by seeing so many of you with your families for the Year 9 Information Evening - I think we may have even set a record attendance. It has been a brilliant start to the year with over 30,000 DREAM points being earned and a 91% behaviour ratio. I know that we can continue to smash that next half-term. I have been really proud to be the Head of Year 9 this year from seeing the high levels of maturity, determination and respect that you have all been showing - we are now showing that we can be great role models for the younger students.

We have also had lots of students getting involved in all things extracurricular again which has been fabulous to see. I am also really looking forward to the first reward trip of the year in November - don't forget that you can earn your spot on the next one after half-term. Have a brilliant extended break and see you after half-term.

Mr Carpenter



Theatre Company Visit

The Upfront Theatre Company came to visit on 25 September. They performed in front of all year 9's, year 10 GCSE students and Year 11. The content was gritty; they focused on self-harm using forum theatre and T.I.E.

It was a safe space where students could ask questions afterwards. The Company travel around England and get very booked up so we are lucky to have had them in our school giving the students support with mental wellbeing. We have asked the Theatre Company to return next year so that more year groups can benefit.

Ms ZM





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.

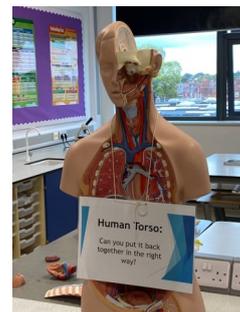


A Warm Thank You from Maiden Erlegh School in Reading!

What a fantastic few weeks it's been at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading! We've just wrapped up our Open Evening and Open Morning events, and we couldn't be more thrilled with how they went.



student ambassadors welcomed families with pride, classrooms were alive with interactive displays, and our staff were on hand to answer every question with warmth and enthusiasm. The Headteacher's talk was a real highlight, offering a glimpse into our values, achievements, and vision for the future.



Our Open Evening was a lively celebration of everything that makes our school community so special. From the moment

Following that, our Open Mornings gave families a chance to see the school in action during a typical day. These quieter sessions were perfect for those who wanted a more relaxed look at our learning environment.

We're so grateful to everyone who came along, asked questions, and shared in the spirit of our school. If you missed the events but would still like to learn more, don't worry – we're always happy to chat and share what makes Maiden Erlegh School in Reading such a vibrant place to learn and grow.



guests arrived, the atmosphere was buzzing –



and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive!

Stay connected via;

-  Our Facebook page Maiden Erlegh School in Reading
-  Our X account @MESReading
-  Our Linked In account Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Year 11

So far this half term we have been lucky to have assemblies from:

- Maiden Erlegh School
- The RAF
- AWE
- Anna Finlason (our careers advisor)
- Highdown
- The Wren
- Piggott
- Bulmershe
- Reading College
- Windsor College

The idea of the assemblies is to ensure that YOU know your destination after year 11 and make an informed choice on what pathway you would like to take.

During tutor time we have been looking at writing a CV. This can then be used for upcoming applications and interviews. Remember you need to stand out - what have you done that is EXTRA that you can add to your CV! We

have also been looking at revision for our upcoming PPEs. Our Head Boy has created a useful PowerPoint that shows all the different techniques and tricks on revision. Weekly I have been posting a PowerPoint with the upcoming revision sessions for the week as well as the tutor schedule. Please make sure you are using this and attending as many of these valuable sessions as possible.

Your Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) start on Monday 3 November. You should already be revising, if you are not - START NOW!

Remember this is a great opportunity to see what you know and what you need to focus on.

Half term - please make sure you have a break; do something you enjoy and relax! BUT also do some revision, do a past paper and use the time wisely.

Continue to make me proud

Miss Hancock





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

We have had a great start to this half term with many clubs running from handball, girls football, basketball and more.

We have been busy with u16 girls football who have completed their league.

They showed real grit and determination throughout all of their games and came out narrow losers in most of their games unfortunately.

U14 girls football have started their season. In their first week they had 2 narrow defeats to Denefield and Reading Girls. However have bounced brilliantly with goals from Hailey and Alliyah to give the



girls a 2-1 win against Oakbank.

We have also had a few basketball games start for the u16 girls, u16 boys and u14 boys.

The u14 boys have got off to a fantastic start in their league against MES coming out 30-6 winners on the day with some standout performances coming from Danilo, Jayden and man of the match Elias.

The u16 boys took on Park House and came out winners in their first game of the season. Their hard work in training with Reading Rockets coming into full swing as they won 40-20. Standout performances from Henij and Taeano scoring 25 points between them to lead Team MER to victory.

However my standout performance of the half term goes to the u16 girls basketball team who in their first ever basketball game against Bohunt school came out winners. With our team filled with mostly year 10 students a tight battle encountered with our team MER girls coming out on top in the 4th



final quarter. Final score 20-16 to MER. Some stand out performances coming from Abeeha and Naomia in this game.

Much more sports to come throughout the next half term please be kept updated through our instagram page **@mer_physical_education**

Year 10

Over 40,000 dream points, top spot on the leader board for over 5 weeks, an MER first! I am so incredibly proud to be head of such a wonderful year group, and I'm looking forward to the journey over the next academic year.

It's a huge year for Y10 this year. We have our first PPE exam on the first day back, work experience in June, and the opportunity to sit a community language exam in the Summer.

Let's work hard, have fun, and set ourselves up to be the best we can be!

Miss L Ryan



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	3 September - 21 October
	3 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.