



ThePulse

Aim high, Be inclusive, Work together

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

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The end of the 2023-24 academic year has come with a flourish of activity, and some new MER "firsts". We had our first summer term "Cultural Day", led by Mrs Harvey, which was a huge success; this remains one of my major highlights of our school calendar, seeing so many of our students share their "cultural" heritage through preparing and serving their favourite family dishes, is a wonder to behold.

In November we had our first Parents Information Event, with over 600 families in the building, meeting with tutors, with their children, to review their progress and discuss their wider personal development; this was another great day, helping us to build more connections with our community.

We also held our inaugural MER Awards Evening on the 18 July, with Ibbi Sankoh, an ex-MER student and semi-professional footballer, joining us as our guest speaker. Over 90 students received recognition for their contribution to school life and the MER Way, as well as reward for their attainment and progress.

Suffice to say that there have been some remarkable achievements in a year like no other; despite the cyber-attack, which had a huge impact on our systems and resources, despite the many challenges we faced recruiting staff to key posts, and despite the Ofsted inspectors visit in early September, our school has continued to develop and thrive. There is something very special about working and studying here, the power of our community to pull together and to support each other, especially when the "chips are down" is quite extraordinary, and, I believe, sets us

apart from many other schools.

Our examination results over the past two years have been very positive; strong outcomes have resulted in the vast majority of our students having the qualifications they needed to access the next steps in their education journey, as well as maintaining our position at the top of the table of coeducational maintained schools in Reading. Alongside the academic curriculum, our enrichment offer has continued to offer the rounded educational opportunities that we want for all our young people to be able to access.

Maiden Erleigh School in Reading is committed to the Trust values of Aiming High, Working Hard and Being Inclusive; our staff have worked tirelessly to support all of our students to be the very best they can be. We recently held another "first"; our first staff "Baftas", our staff awards and celebration evening, where we also had the chance to say goodbye to a small number of staff who are moving on to new ventures; a feature of the leaving speeches was the attachment that many of those leaving still have for our school, based mainly on the strong relationships they have build and the sense of community felt.

We look forward to welcoming the Year 11 cohort back to receive the GCSE results in August, with the summer holiday now upon us, it just leaves me to wish everyone a wonderful break. Have a safe and relaxing holiday and we will see you all again soon.

Will Graham



CALENDAR

4 September

YEAR 7 ONLY
START OF TERM

5 September

**ALL STUDENTS
(ALL YEARS)**
START OF TERM

13 September

School
Photographs

Zoology Day

On July 11, the science department hosted six animals for our annual year 7 zoology day. A fantastic day with each year 7 student spending one hour learning about these wonderful creatures from around the world.



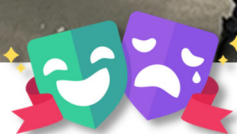
Many of our animal handler passed on her knowledge about the adaptations each animal has to suits its own habitat perfectly. Our students made us proud, showing their inquisitive nature towards learning and showing the upmost respect to the animals throughout the day.

Miss Murphy



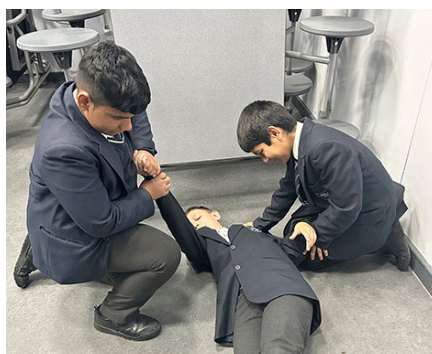


Year 7 Drama



Year 7 have been exploring the experiences of characters Scott and Martha in 'Abomination', using freeze frames to highlight emotion and really form discussions with the audience about their roles and thoughts regarding their experiences. It's great to see them exploring levels and really pushing their physical expression, as well as the thought in their dialogue and scripting! A great example of taking feedback to enhance and enrich their work. Powerful pieces, well done Year 7!

Mrs Cotton



Year 7

WOW, What a year! I cannot believe that the year is almost over! Year 7 have absolutely smashed it out of the park this year. We have had a great year settling into Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. There are so many highlights for me over the Year. This term I have loved seeing the Year 7 helpers at Transition Day and Culture Day, also watching my wonderful year group smash Sports Day and The Art Exhibition. We have mathematicians, ballroom dancers, footballer, chess players, musicians and many more in our talented year group! I cannot wait to see where the journey into Year 8 in going to take us. I wish you all a safe, relaxing and most of all fun summer break and can't wait to welcome you all back in September. See you in Year 8.

Mr Carpenter

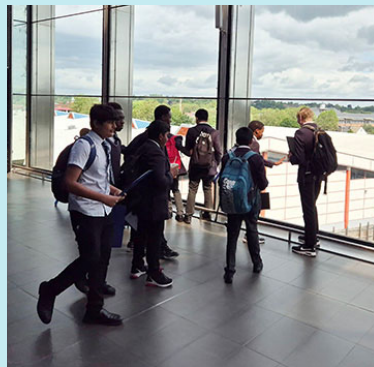


Year 9 Geography fieldwork – Reading station



On May 22, 23 and 24, our Year 9 geographers walked to Reading station and back to investigate the impact of the regeneration of Reading train station on the area. This is a great opportunity to get students out and about and investigating geography in the field and acts as a practice investigation ahead of their one in Year 10, which is used to answer questions in the GCSE examinations in June of Year 11. These questions are worth 10% of the GCSE so it's worth practicing these skills. The year 9 students were fantastic on the trip and carried out their fieldwork with diligence and curiosity. I look forward to taking them to the coast next year and seeing them grow further as geographers.

Mr Tomsett



Year 10 Geography fieldwork – Lyndhurst village and Milford on sea

On June 11, 12 and 13, our Year 10 geographers took the coach to Lyndhurst to investigate the impact of tourism, and then on to Milford on sea to investigate the effectiveness of coastal defences. The investigation in Lyndhurst involves students going into local businesses to

find local people to ask their views on tourism, and students took this challenging task on without hesitation. The latter investigation involves measuring groynes to see if they are effective at trapping sediment moved by longshore drift as well as walking along



the coast and completing a bi-polar analysis of the condition of coastal defences. On June 13, we were faced with the most challenging weather conditions I have faced in years of running this trip, with a cold-biting wind and choppy waves making our data collection very difficult. I was pleased that most students embraced this challenge and were not put off from future visits to the coast by the 'summery' (!!) conditions.

Mr Tomsett

Year 8

Can you believe we are at the end of the year already! It doesn't seem two minutes since you were all sat in the sports hall on day 1 of your MER journey, and now we are approaching halfway!

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 9, 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.

We are going to need to start thinking about our option choices when we come back in the Autumn term, so plenty to look forward to!

Congratulations on remaining on top of the DREAM point leaderboard! Let's see if we can make it to the top three years in a row.. something that's never been done before! Challenge accepted.

Have a fantastic summer, relax, enjoy the sunshine (hopefully!) and I look forward to seeing you as Year 9 in September.

Miss Ryan



PTA Sports Day Fundraiser

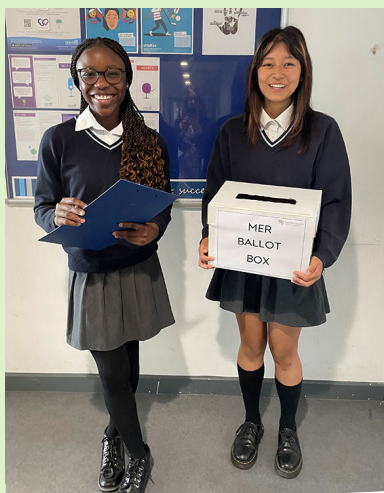
Huge thank you to everyone involved in the selling and purchasing on Sports Day, we have raised

£565.69



Mock Election

With the General Election taking place, we decided to use this opportunity educate our students about the importance of voting and to ask them to vote for the party that they best felt represented their interests and beliefs. They all had assemblies which showed them the policies of the Conservative Party, the Green Party, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrat Party and finally the Reform Party to allow them to make an informed opinion and they voted during tutor. Our students voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Green Party – which just goes to show how concerned our younger generations are about climate instability. We are very proud of all our students who took the time to listen and use their democratic right to vote.



Year 9

Wow. What a year we have had. It has been an absolute pleasure leading this year group from KS3 into KS4 and hopefully like me, you are ready for the new challenge that year 10 brings.

We have an incredible year group, who are destined for big things in life, so make sure you take the summer to relax,

catch up on sleep, have fun with family and friends and get yourself ready for next year. The journey is about to get very real.

Make sure to keep safe this summer and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Mr Sparks



Year 10

It's a pleasure to be stepping into the shoes as Head of Year for Year 10. I look forward to leading them through PPEs, GCSEs and the transition to Post 16. The next year is set to be a rollercoaster, but together we can make it their best year yet.

Here's to the final year and success!

Mrs A Cotton





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 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



Cranbury
College



GREAT HOLLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL



HamiltonSchool

A PLACE OF EDUCATION, GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY



MAIDEN ERLEGH
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MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING



OAK TREE
SCHOOL



RIVER
ACADEMY



www.maidenerleghtrust.org



0118 929 6020



governors@maidenerleghtrust.org

CULTURAL DIVERSITY FAIR

On Wednesday 10th July we enjoyed a wonderful day of celebrating our cultural heritage. Our Cultural Diversity Fair saw many students volunteering their time and efforts to share with the wider school community food, information and fashion from their own cultures. Students also had a lesson exploring their own cultural identity and considering what it means to be a member of MER and the culture we ascribe to here. We look forward to further days celebrating our culture next year.

Mrs A Harvey

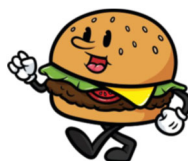


Family BBQ

On Thursday 27 June we welcomed our upcoming Year 7 students and their families to our school for a family BBQ. The weather was lovely and we had over 100 people join us for this inaugural transition event. Mr Graham demonstrated his expertise in burger flipping and Michelle from our Trust catering team excelled herself with an array of delicious salads. We went through huge numbers of burgers, sausages, vege burgers, hot dog rolls and burger buns - not to mention ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise! We were also lucky enough to have our PTA

running a soft drinks stall for us. Mr Hibbins, who is to be this cohort's Head of Year entertained with music, fun and games, ably assisted by some of our wonderful Year 10 students. All the students and their families seemed to have a wonderful time and we were delighted to have such great engagement which we hope will continue through to the end of their time with us in 5 years time!. We are hoping to make this an annual event for the new students joining us in September.

Mrs Gale



A Brilliant Best of Books Week!

From 17-21 June students had the opportunity to engage in a programme of activities that promoted reading. With competitions and events held throughout the week, there were many ways in which they could get involved and win prizes.

On the Monday and Tuesday students could visit the Book Fair and browse the latest fiction and non-fiction books for sale. Many students took the chance to purchase the wide range of new releases available.

On the Friday, year 7, 8 and 9 students were privileged to hear author Tim Tilley speak about his books, *Witchstorm* and *Harklights*. Students were fascinated to hear about how Tim was inspired to write his stories of fantasy and witchcraft. As several students had read the book, they were delighted to have their copies signed after the talk. Tim enjoyed speaking with our well-informed students after the talks.

Mrs Lutton



Are you interested in learning a musical instrument?

We currently offer lessons in the following instruments:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| • Drums | • Violin | • Flute |
| • Piano/keyboard | • Trumpet/trombone | • Saxophone |
| • Guitar | • Singing | • Clarinet |

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

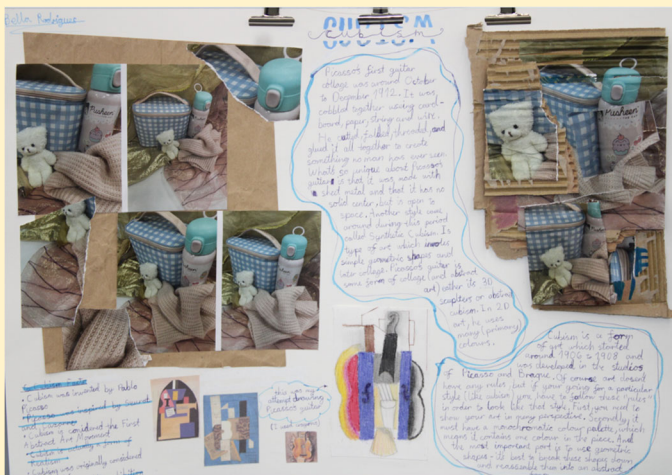
BERKSHIRE
Maestros



Art Year 7

These are all from Year 7 Personal investigation, looking at Cubism

Students were given the task to investigate the art movement of Cubism, This was to be done out of school lessons where they could either come to art after school or do it at home. Everyone had free choice to show their findings, we had a mixture of written information, drawings, paintings and collage or all three.



This is also a Personal investigation by year 7 this one was about birds.

This time the students were given the task to investigate birds.

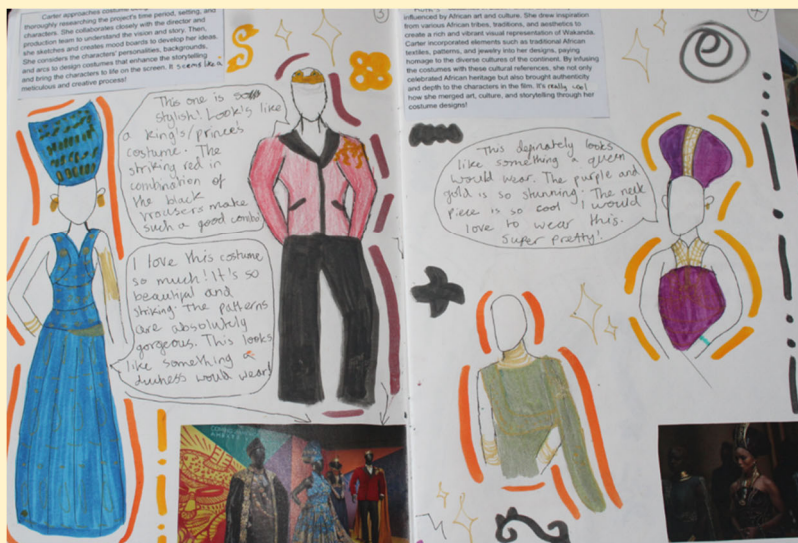
Like the others this was also done out of school lessons where they could either come to art after school or do it at home. Everyone had free choice to show their findings, again we had a mixture of written information, drawings, paintings and head dresses, wall and table art. We also had a human size expanding wing costume.



Art Year 8

These are all from year 8 Personal investigation looking at African art and costume design.

Other than the hanging banners everything else was done out of lessons, just like the Cubsim project. Students were given the task to investigate African culture and/or costume design. Everyone had free choice to show their findings, this time we had a mixture of written information, drawings, paintings, jewellery and clothes.



2nd Personal investigation of Pop Art by year 8

Finally, year 8's Pop Art project. Another great project packed full of colour, with drawings and photos where they used their phones photo apps to create images in the Pop art style.



Under the Stars

Prom 2024 saw the Year 11 have a night 'Under the Stars' - and what an incredible evening it was! The Sports Hall was transformed into the American Prom of dreams, complete with a bouncy castle, pizza and ice cream vans, photobooths and a specially crafted MER bar. The students were praised by staff and suppliers, with one supplier referring to their behaviour on the night as 'impeccable' and the 'best they've ever seen'. The students came together as one and shone like the stars we know they are. Seeing them all conga together was the staff highlight on the night, before ending the evening with the Year 11 BAFTAs and a toast to their success here at MER. Their legacy has been sealed with a night to remember!

Mrs A Cotton



Arts Showcase

On 17 July, the Arts faculty collaborated with the technology faculty to present the Arts Showcase.

In the Main Hall, the GCSE Art and Photography exhibitions wowed the visitors and these demonstrated not only the talent but dedication of our Art and Photography students. The Technology



display also impressed with the hugely varied and skilful exhibits.

In the Atrium, the Music concert displayed a wide range of talent from years 7-10, with students performing a variety of music from Mozart to K-Pop.

The Drama department provided entertainment also, with an entertaining sketch showing what happened to Aladdin and the Genie after the play finished!

During the event, the smells coming from the Food Technology room were amazing, and the spectacular food displays that students exhibited were of Michelin Star quality.

The evening was a great success and visitors, staff and students commenting on how impressive each of the exhibits were.

Wishing everyone a lovely Summer Break, from the Arts team.



Inaugural MER Awards Evening

It was our absolute delight and pleasure to host our first ever MER Awards Evening in the penultimate week of term where we had the opportunity to celebrate some of our amazing students. All our departments were asked to nominate a student in KS3 and a student in KS4 for the progress that had been made in their subject, and also for academic attainment. We also then had Head of Year Awards which were awarded to those who the Heads of Year had deemed had embodied the school values of Aim High, Be Inclusive and Working Together. We were delighted to welcome back one of our previous students, Ibrahim Sankoh, as our Guest Speaker. Ibby was one of our second ever cohorts and did his GCSE's with us in 2021. It was so wonderful to have him back for the evening, talking about his time with us and

hopefully inspiring the younger years to reach for their dreams in the way that he is currently. We were also entertained by some musical interludes during the evening which our choir and pianists performed beautifully. It was a really special evening, thank you to those parents of recipients who attended, we do hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did. We are exceptionally proud of our students and hope that you are too. We look forward to making the MER Awards Evening an annual event.





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 merooffice@maidenerleghtrust.org to find out more.



Sports Day

Sports day was a great success with many students competing throughout the day roughly around 350 competitors on the day and 12 staff members for the staff relay which Mr Hibbins brought on for his team. The day had many stand out performers from every year group for example Jermaine in year 9 running a 11.7 second 100M, Devin in year 10 throwing a Javelin 25M and Emma running a fantastic race in her 100M to collect Gold.

Throughout the day many students came down to compete for their house with smiles on their faces and a competitive attitude, with the final winners being announced in the end of year assembly.

Mr Blakeway





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@maidenerlegthrust.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@maidenerlegthrust.org



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL IN READING

Sports

A busy summer term with lots of sporting action over the last term. We have had cricket fixtures for year 7 and 8 combined team and 9 and 10 teams, as well of lots of athletics as well as sports day.

With much athletics taking place over at Palmer Park against other Reading Schools always gives our students the chance to showcase their individual excellence. We have boys and girls of all age groups competing in a mix of events from 100m races to High jump events. We have had 5 students go off to districts this summer Jariece (year 10), Hanifa (Year 10), Henij (y9), Salim and Emma (y7). All 5



put fantastic effort, however only one student collected first place and that was Salim in year 7 who completed 150M and relay and won in both races and came away with the new Berkshire record for the 150M for u12 with a time of 18.6 seconds.

Continuing with Athletics, our year 7 and 8 boys team got into there highest position for the school has ever been, they competed in the B group out of 4 and ended up winning the group securing our highest finish. Jermiah and Salim coming first in their sprints as well as Kenyi coming first in the 1500m helping the team secure victory for the squad.



The year 7 and 8 cricket team improved greatly over the summer term improving every game and looked ever closer to getting their first win in their last game of the season only to be beaten in the last over of the game against Reading boys' school. Notable performances from Ahmed in year 7, whose fast action bowling gave us a real chance in the

games and fantastic batting from Nischal in year 8 nearly done enough for us to edge over the line.

Year 9/10 cricket have played 3 games this summer winning 2 and losing 1 in a tough battle against Piggot and beating Little Heath and forest in 2 tough fought games.



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 2024

Summer Term

15th April -
24th May

3rd June -
23rd 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@maidenrleghtrust.org for support.