



# Maiden Erlegh School NEWSBLAST



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**OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & SUCCESS FOR ALL**

5 May 2017 - Issue 6

## From the Headteacher

There is so much about being Headteacher of Maiden Erlegh School that makes me very proud. Here are just some reasons why:



- Securing, for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, two SSAT Awards for student attainment and progress in last year's GCSEs (top 20% of schools nationally).
- Bronze Young Carers' Award with special thanks to Miss Nimmo who worked so hard on this.
- A very successful and well attended Easter Holiday revision camp – well done Year 11.
- A raft of sporting achievements e.g.: 25 students participating in the Green Park Challenge, Phoebe Fletcher (rowing), Olivia Neale and Hannah Stewart (swimming), Libby Burgess and her team (played in an under 16s national netball final), Becky Cooke and Chisom Ezekwe (Reading Rockets basketballers) and Freya Thompson, Olivia Barrett and Honor Hargreaves (hockey) – there are so many more.



- An inspiring Performing Arts Showcase put on by Music, Drama and PE.
- A range of trips, even over the last few weeks: Tirabad, "Tech Deck", STEM trip to the National Sailing Centre, Houses of Parliament, the Specialist Craft Competition in Birmingham and of course the Ski trip.
- The Mock Trial and Youth Parliament experiences for students from Year 8 to Year 13.
- Another very successful non-uniform day which raised over £1500 for the New Futures trip to Tirabad with students from Addington Special School.
- A very well attended parent and student Foundation Stage breakfast – so lovely to see all the families to celebrate the wonderful achievements of the youngsters.

I could go on but I wanted to give you just a snapshot of just a little of what goes on outside lessons in this fantastic school.

Thank you to the students for all their energy and support and to the staff for offering such great opportunities.

**OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY &  
SUCCESS FOR ALL**

## CALENDAR

8-12 May	Y12 Tirabad – New Futures
18 May	Y7/8 School of Rock Trip – Music
22 May	Y7-10 District Sports
22 May	Leading Parent Partnership Award – Focus Group 6.30pm H4
23 May	Y10 M Progress Meetings
25 May	Y10 E Progress Meetings

## Young Carers Award



With the work being done across the school we have applied and been successful in achieving our Young Carers Bronze Award. The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award. For more information on the Young Carers initiative please visit our school website:

<http://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/student-services/young-carers/>

Thank you to all the students and parents that have been involved in making this successful, we look forward to working towards the silver award!

## Annual Parent and Student Surveys

Thank you to all the parents and staff who took part in the surveys this year. Numbers of participants were strong again – well up for students and only slightly down for parents.



These results are a real help as we set the School Improvement Plan for the next year and they give us a steer about how to prioritise our work.

Please use the link below to see a summary of the results and how we acted on last year's results.

[www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/parent-information-3/you-saidwe-did](http://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/parent-information-3/you-saidwe-did)

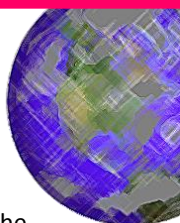
## Leading Parent Partnership Award – Focus Group

Thank you to the parents who have already volunteered for this group. I would like to call a meeting on Monday 22 May at 6.30pm in H4, we will be finished by 7.30pm. Even if you have not signed up, you are more than welcome to attend.

We will look through some of the areas we need to strengthen our evidence for the final assessment, but also parental engagement generally.

## Geographer of the Half Term

The following students have been awarded Geographer of the Half Term for their respective year groups for Spring Term 2. This award recognises the quality of their effort and commitment to work both in lessons and at home. A congratulatory meeting with the Headteacher will take place at 8:30am on Friday 12 May.



### Year 7

Yusuf Butt  
Lucy Rose

### Year 8

Aaryan Purohit  
Zoe Green  
Bonnie Hunt

### Year 9

Matthew Turner  
Lucy Culham

### Year 10

Wesley Moon  
Isha Chaudhry

### Year 11

Daniel Hopkins  
Agasthya Pothapragada  
Ella Green

### Year 12

Tom Jackman  
Conor Harrison  
Emily Chan

### Year 13

Mark Thayer

## Engineering club

Year 12 students held the first 'Engineering club' before the Easter break.

Engineering club is due to be held every Wednesday for budding engineers to build things and tinker and is based on projects designed and researched by the students.

The first project was building a geodesic dome out of sweets and matchsticks. The students are planning to build a hydraulic arm during the summer term.



## Parents' Association Volunteers

Thank you to our wonderful Maiden Erlegh Parents' Association refreshments volunteers who serve drinks etc. at school events.



If you could volunteer, they would be grateful – the more there are, the more the slots can be shared around!

<http://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/parent-information-3/maiden-erlegh-school-parents-association>

## Literacy Focus

POETRY IS  
LANGUAGE  
AT ITS MOST  
DISTILLED  
AND MOST  
POWERFUL.

The world's largest literary competition once again leads the call for the most exciting poets aged 11-17 from across the world.

**It welcomes poems on any theme and entry is completely FREE.**



Since it began the Award has kick-started the career of some of today's most exciting new voices. Past winners include Sarah Howe, Helen Mort and Caroline Bird.



We are delighted to announce that the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2017, for poems by writers aged 11-17, is now **OPEN!**

*Connecting you to the transformative power of poetry.*

Deadline: Midnight 31st July 2017

For further details contact Mrs Yakhya in the English Department.

## Family Workshops

The Crescent Learning Centre has some great family workshops coming up this summer, click on the workshop title for further information.

[Family Summer Baking](#) – 3 June 2017

[Family Cupcake Decorating](#) – 27 July 2017



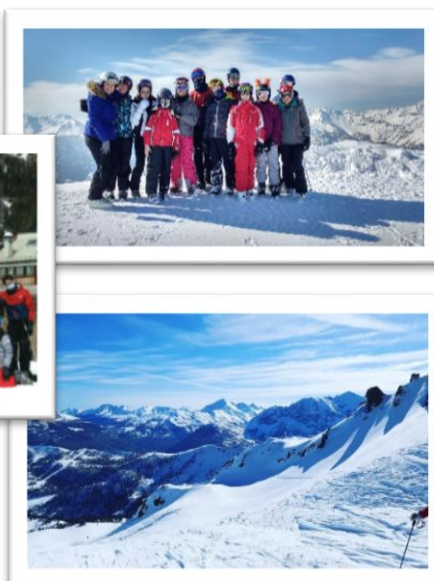
## Ski Trip 2017

The Maiden Erlegh School annual ski trip went out at Easter with 59 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 accompanied by 8 members of staff.

The prospect of an arduous 20 hour coach journey did not dampen the spirits and leaving late Friday afternoon we travelled across the English Channel and then down through the length of France to the Alpine resort of Claviere, just inside the Italian Border. A remarkably straightforward journey saw us make very good time and we arrived in Claviere on Saturday afternoon. A weary but excited group managed to get all their skis and boots fitted before getting an early night ahead of the first day skiing.

Up bright and early on Sunday, we discovered that the resort had changed somewhat. Where there was grass and tarmac before there was a new fall of over 20cm of fresh snow and it was now a Winter Wonderland. Our students were incredibly well organised and managed to dress and properly equip themselves – a feat in itself as for the vast majority this was their very first experience of skiing on snow. We then jumped on our coach for the short journey to the linked slopes in Montgenevre.

Click to [read more](#) about this exciting trip.



## Year 10 Study and Exam Skills Day & Twilight Parents Session



On Tuesday 9 May an outside company called Positively MAD will be coming in to speak and educate our Year 10 students.

The visiting presenters will run two sessions: Exam Busters and Study Skills. The aim of the sessions will be able to help prepare the students for the upcoming PPE exams and GSCE's next year.

In addition to the sessions for the students, we would like to invite parents and guardians to the twilight session the presenters will be running, on how best to support your child during exams and how to help them with their study skills. This will be in the main hall for a prompt start at 5pm on the same day.

## Cycle Safety

We are delighted that lots of our students choose to cycle to school, but there are some who do not always ride safely and put themselves and others at risk. If your son or daughter cycles to school please would you talk to them about the dangers of:

- Not wearing a helmet;
- Riding with earphones in;
- Riding in the middle of the road;
- Giving rides to others, particularly on their handlebars.
- Riding on footpaths and pedestrian areas.



Please also show courtesy to all other road and cycle path users.

**Don't wait for an accident to happen.**

## Year 11 English Language and Literature GCSE Revision area

The Year 11 Google classroom has been up and running for some weeks. The code to join is: **iq3gz3p**. Students can join the classroom and download any resources from the revision corridor sessions as well as other useful resources to support their revision. Please encourage your son/daughter to join if they have not done so already.

## Opportunities for Year 12s Interested in Oxbridge



### Univ's Mini Half Term Open Day – Friday 2 June 2017

Univ are again opening their doors to students and parents during half term. On Friday 2 June, individuals and small groups are invited to take a look around University College. They are running a tour with a student tour guide to see accommodation, the Dining Hall, and more. There will also be a chance to hear from Univ's Senior Tutor, Andrew Bell, about making a competitive application to Oxford. Book using the link below: <https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/mini-open-day>

### Univ's Ancient Civilisations Study Day – Thursday 15 June 2017

If you love all things ancient then this study day is for you! Univ is hosting a full day of lectures and classes featuring subjects such as Classics, Ancient History and Egyptology. This is an excellent chance to explore your subject interest further and gain ideas of resources to use as you prepare to make a University application. Check out a provisional timetable and details of how to apply on their website: <https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/content/year-12-subject-study-days>.

The application deadline is **\*Wednesday 17th May\***, by which we need to have received an online application and teachers' approval form.



### What's it like being a Buddhist today?

Maiden Erlegh's Year 8 students have been finding out what it is like being a Buddhist today. All Year 8 students this month and next will have the opportunity to have a question and answer session with a practicing Buddhist from the Shantideva Buddhist Centre in Reading.



8m/Re1 (Mr Greener's group)

Some of these students have already met Guen Kelsang Wangmo, a Buddhist nun and more members of the local Sangha are visiting us soon. The sessions that have taken place so far have been fantastic. Students have gained an insight into what it is actually like to practice Buddhism today and had the opportunity to ask a Buddhist their own questions.



12C/Re1 (Miss Jones' group)

Our A level Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism students also had an opportunity to ask their philosophically complex questions to Guen Kelsang Wangma, to support their study of Buddhism. The eloquent and well-considered answers from our visitor certainly deepened our understanding but I think it's safe to say, the session led to even more questions than answers!

[Click here](#) to read more about the questions asked.

Thank you to the Shantideva Buddhist Centre for the sessions that have already taken place and in advance for the sessions that are to come.

**Miss Jones (Head of Religion & Philosophy)**

### English Department - 500 Words Competition

Last term, to celebrate the BBC Radio 2 500 words short story-writing competition, the English department ran an internal competition for Foundation students. We were overwhelmed by the response and Mrs Bryce, and her team of judges, enjoyed 248(!) entries from Year 7 & 8.

We were so impressed by the creativity and engagement and well done to everyone who entered.

Overall winner: 'Milk Boy' - Angel D'Cruz

#### Year 8

1st Place 'Where Were You?' - Joseph Helsby  
2nd Place 'Free' - Amreeta Kahlon  
3rd Place 'Run' - Anna Starnes

Shortlisted:

'Lola' - Nancy Bedford  
'The Boy with the Very Dirty School Shoes' - James West  
'The End' - Luke Worsley  
'The Pills' - Dillon Roper

#### Year 7

1st Place 'Nutty Nanny' - Sophie Shaw  
2nd Place 'The Pigeon Soldier' - Amelia Goodey  
3rd Place 'Greta' - Jess Lovell

Shortlisted:

'The Hunt' - Carrie Whalley  
'The Messenger' - James Halford  
'A Mystery Solved' - Zahra Qureshi  
'The Misunderstanding' - Jan Gilbert

### Religious Studies Google Classrooms



Google Classroom™

Over the last couple of months, the R.S. team have been hard at work setting up Google Classrooms for all our students to support their learning. Students have been told about these in their lessons and many students are already involved but it would be fantastic to see even more students logging on!

To log on, use the codes below:

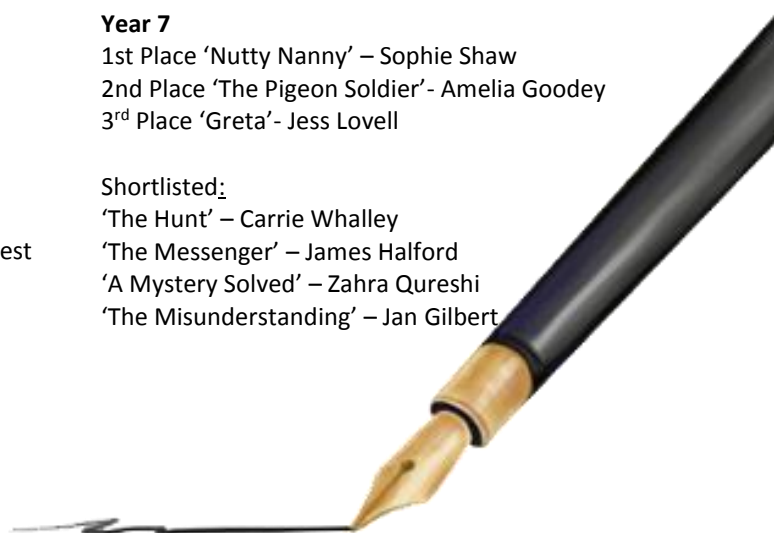
[A level Philosophy: uh10y2n](#)

[A level Ethics: kp5j6k8](#)

[A level Buddhism: p8x8ttl](#)

[GCSE: 0acvzvk](#)

[Foundation: ssonqn7](#)



## Green Park Challenge



Congratulations to the following students who competed in the Green Park Challenge 3k fun run, in particular Beau Burton, Freya Thompson, Becky Cooke, Stephen Adams, Noah Parsons, and Zach Townend who received trophies for being the fastest group of three in an age group from the same school.

Beau Burton  
Camilla Linton  
Nathan Hallam-Baker  
Dylan Grieves  
Sofia Hindry  
Becky Cooke  
Freya Thompson  
Noah Parsons  
Rebecca Saunders  
Rose Grieves  
Zach Townend  
Anna Starnes

Alice Saunders  
Stephen Adams  
Ed Marsden  
Adam Reading  
Charlotte Maskell  
George Major  
Abdullah Alami  
Bethany Soutter  
Emily Farman  
Joseph Helsby  
Leeya Naik  
Zoe Dumbleton

[Click here](#) to view the results table.



## Social Media Concerns

The internet is constantly moving and changing and as parents and teachers we are almost always behind our teenagers and racing to catch up.

Some of you will be aware of the apps and games your children are using, others will not. Have you heard of the following:



Yellow

**Yellow.** This is an app which is linked to Snapchat and is best described as Tinder for children. It is designed to help children make friends on Snapchat, but it could very easily be used by predators trying to befriend children.



**Say At Me** is a website which invites people to 'Get anonymous and honest feedback about yourself.' Owing to its anonymous nature, students using this site could find themselves the victims of bullying and hate mail.



**The Blue Whale Game** asks teenagers to take part in an escalating series of self-harm challenges, culminating in suicide. This appears to have originated in Russia where it is claimed that it has led to the suicides of 130 teenagers. There are reports that it is being played in the UK.

If you have any concerns about your children and social media, the CEOP advice page for parents is here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

## Work of Art

### Artists of the Month - March

Congratulations to the following students for being awarded Artist of the Month in each key stage for March. Do come and see their work in the art Department.

Year 7 Joss Bertrand, Eddie Burrows and Rebecca Riley  
Year 9 Abigail Ford and Pearl Gibson  
Year 12 Amrit Manku and Wiktorja Sternik



Joss Bertrand



Abigail Ford



Eddie Burrows



Rebecca Riley



Amrit Manku



Pearl Gibson



Wiktorja Sternik

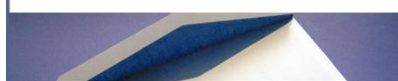
### PE Department

[Click here to view our latest Sports Bulletin](#)



### Letters for Parents

[www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/letters-for-parents/](http://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/letters-for-parents/)  
[Click here to view recent communications](#)



### ParentPay

[Click on the ParentPay logo to login and register your account.](#)  
Any queries please [click here to email us.](#)



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