



From the Headteacher

Dear #TeamMaidenErlegh

We continue to live in very strange times and the uncertainty of what happens next is always there. We must, therefore, continue to work together to support our key focus – the students. As a school the health, safety and wellbeing of the community is our number one priority, and in addition, we pride ourselves on the quality of education that we provide. The fact that we are doing this remotely is no different and we will continue to check in on students, provide support and offer online education that is fitting for Maiden Erlegh students.

In recent weeks there have been various announcements and news articles relating to the return of schools and whilst this has been predominantly focussed on primary schools, there has been some direction about 'face to face' provision for Year 10 and 12. We are still waiting for clear guidance on what this entails but have planned to welcome back these year groups when we deem it safe to do so.

The online learning that is being provided is continually being reviewed and I have written to each year group to inform them about what this will look like after half term. Year 10 and 12 will continue with the current set up until we hear more. I would like to thank the students for engaging so positively with this provision and the quality of work that I am seeing is breath taking. We had 'Thank a Teacher Day' this week and there were over 800 thankyou's sent in which is quite remarkable and I am sure they will be warmly received by the staff here.

There are a lot of house activities going on and also department enrichment events which are all on Google Classroom and can be found on our Twitter account too – we also had our first virtual fixture where we beat Wallingford 4-1 so well done everyone!

Finally, I would like to say that we all long to walk through those gates again in some form of normality, but until then we are here for you all and hope you stay safe and well.

Kind regards

Mr Gibson

Fantastic Fundraising

Our very own Mr Pringle has been brightening up everyone's day, not only those of us in the Maiden Erlegh School community but those across the borough, by running around dressed up as a giant Pikachu/dinosaur/horse to raise money for the New Futures initiative. He has almost covered 400 miles now and has been supported massively by the Maiden Erlegh and wider community whilst out on his runs. We're super proud of you Mr Pringle!

Thank you for all the donations to this worthy cause, we have raised nearly £2,000 for this amazing initiative so far!

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/newfutures>

Virtual PE Fixtures

The Maiden Erlegh Community has been taking part in a 5 day virtual fixture with Wallingford School. Each day staff, students and their families were encouraged to take on a physical challenge to earn points for their school. The results are in and we are pleased to announce that Maiden Erlegh won!



Sports Prefects 2020/21

We are excited to inform you that we have selected next year's Sports Prefects, congratulations to all of you.



We hope you have been enjoying our videos, we miss all of you! Keep busy and stay safe and don't forget to let us know what you have been doing to keep busy either on twitter or by email.

From the Head of Year 7

Year 7 have been working so hard since lockdown began, earning hundreds of house points in the process. It has been heartening to see and hear how helpful students have been to each other during this – whether it is holding a Zoom chat with friends to work through a project together, giving assistance to classmates on how to submit work, or explaining how to do a task on Google Classroom. It has been great to see so many Y7 students continue the fantastic effort, attitude and work ethic which they displayed while we were at school. I have had lots of emails from teachers who have been so impressed with the standard of work being submitted so well done and keep it up.

Apart from school work students have also been keeping busy in other ways – many took part in the PE virtual fixtures or have been telling me or their tutors about various cooking and baking adventures at home. Many students have also been showing their creative side with the recent VE Day bunting challenge. Lots of others have also been helping out at home which is great to hear about.

Keep up the great work and stay safe Year 7.
Mr Bishop

From the Head of Year 9

Hello Year 9, I hope you are safe and well as we approach the end of an unusual and testing half term.

Firstly, I must ensure you know how proud I am of you. I have had the pleasure of speaking to a number of you, your parents and your staff over the period of time we have been away from school. These conversations have confirmed a lot of what I already knew about you as a year group, but let me be clear – you amaze me with how conscientious, resilient and positive you are able to be in the toughest of times. It is also quite clear how hard you are working alongside your staff to keep your learning and progress moving forward. This will stand you in the best stead when we are able to return to school and continue with your GCSE courses. Keep it going.

I have found there has been a lot of time to reflect on things during this period and something that has really helped me is demonstrating a little bit of gratitude. I have taken time to think about the things I am grateful for and how I can show appreciation for them. Over the half term break, I urge you to think about what you can be thankful for, no matter how big or small. I think you'll find some additional perspective and positivity which can be drawn upon when days feel a little more challenging than others.

We all miss you hugely and I very much look forward to the day we can welcome you back to school safely. Look after yourselves, stay safe and have a restful break.

Mrs Bhadye

From the Head of Year 8

This has been an excellent time for Year 8, both before and during lockdown. Students have worked through their options for Key Stage 4 as they begin to think about their future and their education.

The year group continue to have excellent successes both academically and in our extra-curricular provision. Prior to the UK lockdown our two teams were ready to perform in the UK's legal competition 'Mock Trial' which centres around public speaking. They worked very hard and it was a shame they were unable to compete. We have had wonderful successes in Art with students winning both local and national competitions with their work. Music and sport successes continue to be achieved both before and during lockdown. During this lockdown we have had virtual PE Fixtures and Year 8 students have played an excellent role in that, giving us some excellent wins against the other teams.

In addition to this, Year 8 students have performed excellently during this period of lockdown, submitting some wonderfully excellent project work. Students have become involved with our wellbeing group and taking part in the weekly Yoga pose. It is so wonderful to see such team spirit from the year group. I am extremely proud in all they do.

Take care and stay safe.

Mr Jones



A message from Mrs Philips to Year 8 and 9 students who would be interested in doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Wokingham Borough Council run the DofE Award from two open centres, Wokingham Youth Centre on a Monday and Tuesday evening and Twyford Youth Centre on a Thursday Evening for both the Bronze and Silver Awards. Sessions are held every week with each young person working towards either their Bronze or Silver Award.

The Bronze Award is for young people who will be starting Year 9 from September and the Silver Award for those who will be starting Year 10 from September (the DofE intake is then in November). If you are interested in working towards one of these awards and are currently in Year 8 or 9, please contact Mrs Philips at sharon.phillips@wokingham.gov.uk and request to be added to the list to start in November 2020.



From the Head of Year 10

This has been a strange half term, but I must start off by saying how proud I am of the Year 10s. The majority of students are producing an exceptional level of work for their subjects and I am receiving so many messages from staff about this. They are really taking hold of their own learning, becoming independent learners. There are of course a few struggles and where this is the case I will continue to be in contact aiming to support them in the best way I can whilst not seeing them. Do get in contact with me if you are worried. I have been producing assemblies where they get to listen to me - how much they are enjoying hearing my voice is yet to be decided! This half term they have been looking at political parties and drawing up their own manifestos to show what's important to them if they were to come into power. They will be voting on these, so why not talk to your child about what they deem to be important within the political setting. Many of our students are coping really well with the situation but of course some are not, please do continue to keep me in the loop. It's really important, that if we need to, we can put them in touch with the right mental health support we have access to within our school community or outside. We cannot do this without your help so please do message if you are at all worried. My email address has changed to c.nimmo@maidenerleghtrust.org

I have seen a lot of Year 10 taking part in activities virtually and physically, this is brilliant, and I cannot stress enough how important it is for them to have an active lifestyle for good mental health. Please do continue to encourage them in this, I love hearing about all their adventures, even if they are little different at the moment. Those of you that know me well, know that I am not always one for social media but there is a big place for this at the moment (can you believe I am saying this!). A lot of our teenagers need that social interaction with their friends and so are using social media for this. This is so important and I hope, with all we have taught them about being safe, they are enjoying speaking to their friends and wider family during this time. I hope you all have a lovely half term and a well-deserved break, I love working with your children and they are doing everyone proud at the moment and I look forward to continuing to celebrate all their big and little wins along the way. Take Care, Miss Nimmo

From the Head of Year 12

Can you believe that it has been nearly three months since we went into lockdown? We are living in the most unprecedented of times and I am amazed at how well most of you have adapted to this new way of working. Some of you have made us proud by volunteering in the community and during our calls home many of you were telling us about how you are exercising your bodies as well as your minds, despite the restrictions. However, it would not be unusual to have ups and downs and we urge any student who is struggling with any aspect during the lockdown to let us know straight away.

Despite the upheaval of recent weeks I am pleased to announce that we have been able to appoint six Year 12 students to the senior team for the next year. As teachers there is much that we don't know about what is going on in the school and we depend on the leadership of our senior students to help make the school a better place for everybody. As such the senior team is an important part of the school's continual reflection and improvement. We had an exceptional standard of applications for the post of head boy and head girl and following an online interview the following students were appointed to lead the senior team:

Head Boy and Head Girl; Mateen K and Becky C
Deputy Head Boys; Daniel S and Alfie J
Deputy Head Girls; Abigail F and Anna P

Thank you to all of you who applied. The remaining six positions will be appointed after a hustings event and vote following half term - the details for which have been published on Google Classroom.

I'd like to wish all Year 12 students and your families well over half term. Stay safe and make sure that you have a proper break.

Mr Bell

From the Head of Year 11

Dear Year 11

I hope you are all safe and well.

Year 11 is always a crazy year but I can whole heartedly say that there has never been a year like this one. Our Year 11 students should be about to head off into the longest summer of their lives and get to celebrate all the hard work they have put into their examinations. You have definitely got the longest summer and I hope in the future that you get the opportunity to celebrate the hard work you had already put in for your examinations because you truly deserve it.

I'm really sorry how Year 11 has ended this year but I am also really proud of what you have all achieved at Maiden Erlegh! I will see many of you back through the school gates in September whom I wish every success in the sixth form, but for those of you that I won't see back at school I hope that you excel in your chosen career path and look forward to hearing of your successes. It's been a fun, interesting and challenging year for all of us and now I hope all of Year 11 stay safe, enjoy themselves and prepare themselves for their forthcoming adventures.

Good luck to you all.

Mr Crockford

From the Co-Heads of Year 13

Dear Year 13

It has been really lovely to talk to many of you over the past few weeks, we miss seeing your faces daily and talking to you – yes ALL of you! Sorry to those students who were dragged out of bed to talk to us – well, actually, still being in bed between the hours of 1pm and 4pm is not acceptable on a daily basis! Really great to hear so many of you supporting and helping out your families, loved ones, neighbours and local communities. You continue to make us all proud!

We are very sorry that study leave wasn't as we hoped and expected it to be for you all. However, we hope you were able to reflect fondly today on the past 7 years of your school journey and the wonderful lifelong memories made - all of your achievements and successes, the friendships formed, tough times overcome, a few valuable lessons learned, fun times experienced, the contribution you made to your school, the smiles you left on your teacher's faces, how proud you made your staff (and at times how stressed you made them...), and all of the dodgy hair styles through the years! When we are able to, we will celebrate properly your time at school and all of your achievements and successes!

Remember the best is yet to come, the next phase of your life will be fun, exciting, a little scary and daunting at times, but amazing and hugely worthwhile! Us oldies are very jealous! And, you WILL BE successful in your own personal goals!!

A huge thank you to the departing Senior Team of 2019/20, in particular Wes and Emma. You've all done an amazing job this year, and we are very grateful and appreciative for your time, efforts, energy, efficiency and positivity.

Remember we are all still here for you, so please do not hesitate to contact us and we will get back you asap. Email addresses have changed slightly to k.birch@maidenerleghtrust.org and c.hill@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Take care and stay safe,
Miss Birch, Mrs Hill and Year 13 tutors

Safeguarding Resources

The links below give information and advice for children, young people and parents to help keep children safe on-line. Please share this information with your children. During lockdown many of us are turning online to stay in touch and this goes for children as well as adults. Sadly, some criminals are using these extraordinary circumstances as a way to exploit and target young people when they are online. Do we/you know who children are speaking to online?

[Online Exploitation - Useful Information and Links](#)

[Do you know who you are speaking to online?](#)

[Info for Home School Networks](#)

[App Information](#)

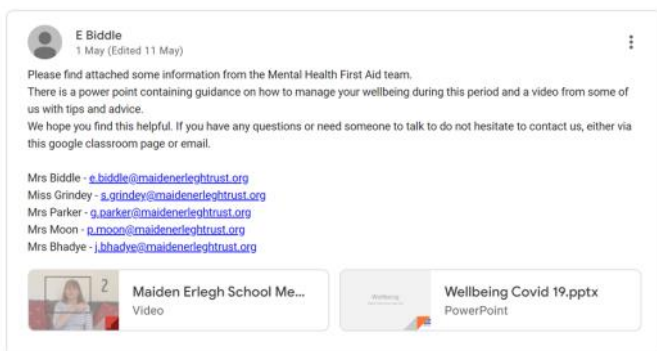
Thames Valley Police have seen an increase in reports of online sexual abuse involving children since movement restrictions were introduced and are urging parents to take this opportunity to have honest conversations about online safety with their children and to review privacy settings on the apps and social networks that they are using.

To support parents during COVID-19, the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection division are producing fortnightly activity packs to help discuss staying safe online with your children. These age-appropriate resources, containing two 15-minute activities for each age group, can be found at www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

Key safeguarding messages can be found at <https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp>

Wellbeing Support

In these challenging times, we have pulled resources together with the aim of offering wellbeing & mental health support and guidance for our students and their families. We have created a designated Wellbeing support Google Classroom page (code:coux2my). On this page students can find presentations and videos containing advice and tips from the MES Mental Health First Aiders (see example of the page below). There is also information regarding externally run free to access courses and local support from charities such as No.5 Young People.



School Nursing Team

Some of our school nursing team have been redeployed and are doing an amazing job working on the wards at our local hospitals, however the rest of the school nursing team is still available to help support children and young people and their families with health concerns and to stay safe.

Please contact your local team:

Wokingham

0118 949 5055

csnwokingham@berkshire.nhs.uk



HEROES
THANKSAMILLIONNHS.CO.UK

House Competitions—Get Involved!!

Lockdown Yoga Challenge – Ongoing House Competition

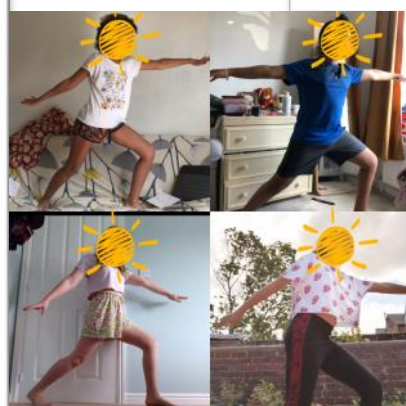
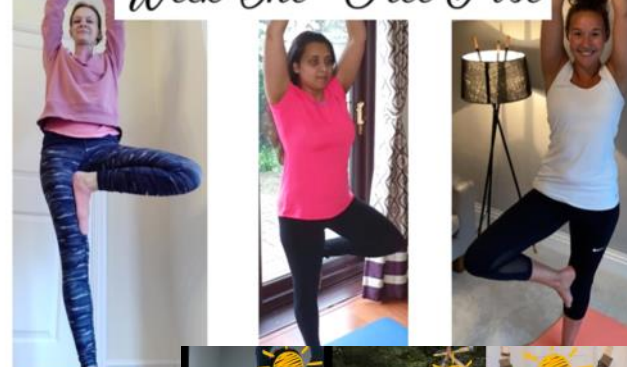
Being active is great for wellbeing. In these difficult times, we have invited students and staff to take 5 minutes and give this weekly yoga challenge a go.

Yoga 'pose of the week' – has been running for three weeks. The weekly pose is posted under the classwork tab in the Wellbeing Support Google Classroom (coux2my) on #WellbeingWednesday. Students are invited to give it a go and upload their photo to earn a house point for each and every week they participate in.

Week one we tackled the 'Tree' pose and week two we trained 'Warrior' pose. Over 50 students have got involved so far and it's great to see all of the attempts! Bonus points may be awarded for background creativity and getting members of the family involved.



Lockdown Yoga Challenge Week One - Tree Pose



Easter Egg Challenge

Over Easter we had nearly 50 House Easter Egg competition entries from students in Year 7-11 from all six houses. The challenge was to send a photo of the most creative way to use an Easter egg. Everyone who entered the House Easter challenge achieved 2 house points for their house!

Here are the winners:

1st place- Rebecca (Yr11) = Easter Egg Cozy for Team Yousafzai who gains 20 house points

2nd place- Cissi (Yr 9) - Easter Egg Turtle for Team Roddick who gains 15 house points

3rd place- Elliot (Yr 7) - Easter Egg Pin Cushion for Team Bolt who gains 10 house points



Egg-cellent Job!!

Inclusion Sunflower Growing House Competition

Huge thank you to Karen Vass who is taking care of the Inclusion Team's Sunflowers for the house competition.

Which House's flower will bloom first?



House Points

Staff are continuing to award house points for all the exceptional work that is happening at home. All houses have exceeded 10,000 house points this year, you should all be really proud of yourselves.

Here are the current scores at May Half Term:

1st place- Team Bolt with 11,219 points

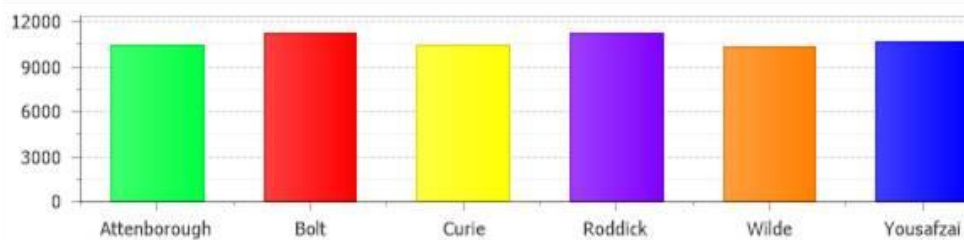
2nd place- Team Roddick with 11,187 points

3rd place- Team Yousafzai with 10,613 points

4th place- Team Curie with 10,432 points

5th place- Team Attenborough with 10,395 points

6th place- Team Wilde with 10,313 points



Very well done to every single student who has gained a house point through excellent work or contribution to House competitions over the last half term! The scores are so close, I wonder who will come out on top in July?

Thank you for all your support with the House System. Please do follow us:

Keep an eye out for more house competitions and get involved!



Google Classrooms Codes

ATTENBOROUGH: qwfzhhc

RODDICK: w36x0ro

BOLT: ifryc7u

WILDE: eib5gew

CURIE: mi3ntk

YOUSAFZAI: a2e4j4l

Year 7 Design Technology Recycling Project

Year 7 DT students were set the challenge to design a planter that used the 6Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink, Repair, Refuse).

Here are some examples of the work that the students have completed. We are really proud of the work students have done!

Well done to everyone!

