



THE GRIFFIN

ISSUE 3: JULY 2020

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Welcome to our Newsletter

I would like to say how proud I am of our community for their never-ending resilience and hard work during this period of school closure. I am sure they are all ready for a well-deserved break over the summer!

I am incredibly proud of our students and staff. We are in unprecedented times, and the maturity that our students have shown is incredible. Not only have they remained dedicated to their studies and produced some excellent work, but they have also participated wholeheartedly in multiple House competitions and PE challenges. Our staff have also been helping make PPE and donating equipment, as well as continuing to fund raise for worthy causes.

I wish you all a restful summer break and look forward to welcoming all students back in September as part of #TeamMaidenErlegh.

Mr Paul Gibson
Headteacher

SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards 2019

We are pleased to share our excellent performance from last year. According to our statistics from KS4 in summer 2019 we are in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for attainment and progress.



In this issue:

- ♦ PPE for the Community
- ♦ Fundraising Events
- ♦ Ofsted Result
- ♦ Community Project at Aisha Masjid
- ♦ School Leadership Team
- ♦ MESPA Fundraising





Covid-19 has provided a number of challenges to our school community, however it has also provided us with the opportunity to come together and support each other in a number of community led incentives.

One such incentive was through a Leighton Park School initiative, to help the NHS by providing laser cut Face Shields for front line staff working in Hospitals and Nursing homes and for use by Care organisations.

The plea for help came about when Leighton Park were unable to fulfil the overwhelming demand from medical and health sectors. A number of schools spanning all the way from Tilehurst, Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell rushed to support them in the community's hour of need.



With the help of a TA member of staff to point us in the right direction, a Design Technology Technician and teacher, a Design Technology teacher at Maiden Erlegh in Reading and our headteachers Mr Paul Gibson and Mr Andy Johnson, the production of the parts for the face shields started.

Over 4 weeks during the lockdown and peak of the COVID-19 infection, just over 1000 face shields were created on the Design Technology Departments' Laser Cutters. Although Maiden Erlegh started production fairly late on, it was still a huge privilege to successfully contribute to the 32,000 face shields that were produced by the wider school community and a few local businesses.



We also had the opportunity to donate our science goggles to Woodley Centre GP Surgery, which were used by frontline staff as PPE supplies started to run low at the peak of the infection.

Maiden Erlegh School Retweeted



MESHeadteacher @MesHeadteacher · Apr 1

Thrilled to say that Woodley Centre GP Surgery will be arriving at school to pick up some Science goggle to protect their staff. A small token of our appreciation to NHS staff. We hope they will help the team in their battle against this terrible virus. #TeamMaidenErlegh

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52

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Fundraising Events

On July 3 the staff and students wore their uniform creatively to raise money for JAC and First Days, two of many charities who are struggling during this pandemic.

Over £300 was raised and lots of imaginative ways to 'wear it your own way' were discovered!



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 to raise money for the New Futures initiative. He has almost covered 400 miles now and has been supported massively by Maiden Erlegh and the wider community whilst out on his runs. Thank you for all the donations to this worthy cause, we have raised nearly £2,000 for this amazing initiative so far!



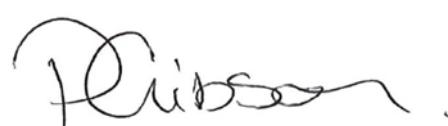


Ofsted Outstanding

Earlier this year, before anyone realised the impact COVID19 was going to have on life as we knew it, we faced another challenge... a visit from Ofsted. This resulted in a verdict of 'outstanding' in all categories and the overall effectiveness of the school was also rated as outstanding.

I am incredibly proud as Headteacher of this wonderful school to share this news with you. The opening line of the report which states 'students receive an excellent education at this school' emphasises our success in achieving our core mission. The report also highlights that students are 'exceptionally well cared for' and that as a school we 'have the highest academic expectations of all students' highlighting our focus on, not only academic success but the wellbeing of the students. Our motto states that we will provide 'opportunity, diversity and success for all' and this report recognises the inclusive nature of our work across the school. As a comprehensive 11-18 school I am extremely pleased that the inclusive nature of our sixth form has been recognised, and that students with special educational needs enjoy their learning and 'achieve exceptionally well'. The latest inspection framework from Ofsted is extremely rigorous and focuses on the quality of education that students receive across the board. The inspectors looked at the breadth and ambition of curriculum and made reference to a wide range of subjects including the Arts which are an integral part of our school. The inspectors noted how motivated our students are and that they 'grow into confident, articulate individuals'. Behaviour is described as 'exemplary, both in and out of lessons'. I am incredibly proud of every student in #TeamMaidenErlegh. I would also like to praise the hard work of the staff at the school, which often goes unnoticed. I work with an incredibly talented and dedicated group of teachers and support staff who continually go above and beyond the call of duty for the students who come here. It is also important to note the support that Maiden Erlegh Trust have provided the school over past few years. This grade is a recognition of the work of the school every day and over time. Their expertise helps this school continue to grow and improve.

The full report can be read [here](#)



Mr Paul Gibson
Headteacher



Community Project at the Aisha Masjid & Islamic Centre



On Friday 19 June, Miss Jones had the pleasure of being involved in a community project at the Aisha Masjid & Islamic Centre.

The centre currently caters for approximately 850 brothers and sisters for Jummah Prayer. However, it is currently undertaking extensive refurbishment and expansion to cater for its ever growing ummah (community).



The Islamic Centre's vision is for it to be a 'community hub' and a place that is vibrating, inviting, inspiring and transformational.

Part of this vision is to have a community garden, where people from all over Reading can come to learn about different plant species, ecosystems and environmental conservation.

Over the weekend of the 19-20 June, the Centre invited a range of individuals from the local area, including representatives from dif-



ferent faith backgrounds, nationalities and charity organisations (to name but a few), who came to the garden to plant a bush. The lovely sentiment behind this initiative was that even though each bush is individual, when the plants grow, they will become entwined, forming a hedge, to represent the way we want our community to work as one.



Maiden Erleigh Senior Leadership Team 2020 – 2021

It's definitely a sign of the weirdness of our current times when it's my job to write a paragraph that introduces you to a senior leadership team I've never actually met in person, and yet it's exactly these circumstances that makes our mission statement more important than ever.

In a period where our physical health is at such dramatic risk, it can be easy to forget about its opposite and equally important partner: mental health. The new senior team for the academic year 2020-21 has therefore decided to make this our core aim above anything else.

Academic success is obviously important, but it would clearly be wrong to ignore the unprecedented and stressful circumstances in which our students are currently striving for it.

Head Boy and Head Girl- **Mateen K** and **Becky C**

Deputy Head Boys- **Dan S** and **Alfie J**

Deputy Head Girls- **Abbie F** and **Anna P**

House Captains- **Armaan J** and **Zainab M** aim to develop a sense of pride in representing your house, as well as cultivate an inclusive atmosphere for all.

Wellbeing Representatives- **Natalie O** and **Joshua S** aim to create a school-wide support system with students from all year groups coming together to help each other, as well as tackle stress and anxiety.

Cohesion and Inclusion Representatives- **Venessa N** and **Iva Z** aim to ensure equal treatment for students for all students, regardless of disabilities, race, religion, or sexuality. They are focusing specifically on new students in all year groups, with ideas such as icebreaker assemblies and games in September, and a podcast that any student can submit ideas to.

The team are very excited for the opportunity to serve the students and parents of Maiden Erleigh School.

- Dan S, Deputy Head Boy

Keep in touch

Website: [click here](#)

Email: alumni@maidenerleghschool.co.uk

We enjoy hearing from all our Alumni and would love to hear from you. Please email with any memories of your time here, or any news of what you are doing now and you could be part of the next issue. **@MaidenErleighSch**

We are particularly interested in anyone who has been part of the fight against COVID19 and would love to hear how you have been helping the community.



#TeamMaidenErleigh



PLEASE **SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY**

We need you now more than ever

- MESPA has just donated more than £6,000 to the school
- The money will buy equipment to teach children while keeping them safe
- Help your child's school - join the lottery. Tickets cost £1

Support Us Now

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.

Follow MESPA on Twitter @MespaEarley where there is more information about the lottery and other MESPA activities.

