



****Over half term please report positive COVID-19 cases to mescovidalert@maidenerleghtrust.org****

23 October 2020 - Issue 34

From the Headteacher

What a half term it has been! We saw all students fully return to school following on from the school closures last academic year. It has been fantastic to welcome students back to school and there was no one more thrilled to say hello to them all as they entered the gates back in September. There has been a real purpose amongst our students and they have been incredibly dedicated to their studies, as well as enjoying the social aspect of being back with their friends (in a COVID secure way of course!). As always, thank you for your patience as we try to navigate the new normal and deal as quickly as possible with any positive cases that have been reported to us. We have been in regular discussions with Public Health, both nationally and Wokingham and we have been reassured on each occasion that we are acting within the requirements of the guidance. However, we will not stop in trying to fine tune our provision to keep our entire community safe.

There has been lots to celebrate since we have been back. Students have been throwing themselves into challenges wholeheartedly which has been great to see. Last week there was a science selfie competition which lots of our students took part in. Please see these creative photos later in the Newsblast. A huge congratulations also to Neha and Natalia in Year 9 who won the Art for Research Reading's 2019/2020 artwork competition.

It is Black History Month in the UK in October. Each day we are celebrating the contributions of people of colour to the historical development of Britain and the world. It has been great to highlight so many influential people to our students and wider community. Each day students will also be learning about these influential figures through their tutors. Follow us on Twitter ([@MaidenErleghSch](#)) to see who today's influential person will be.

We also reported that we have been shortlisted for Secondary School of the Year in the TES Awards. This is such an incredible achievement and I am so proud of our community, this truly is about all of us, #TeamMaidenErlegh and I would love to see what we have achieved together recognised on Friday 13 November. Our promo video can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6AP0GiRI74&feature=emb_logo

So far this academic year we have had to host our events virtually. I am pleased to say that these have been successful and we have taken feedback on board to try and improve further.

CALENDAR

23 October	Students finish for Half Term
26-30 October	Half Term
2 November	Student return to school
16 November	School Closed for Staff Training Day
1 December	Year 10 M Virtual Progress Meetings
3 December	Year 10 E Virtual Progress Meetings
8 December	Year 13 Progress Meetings
18 December	Student finish at 12.15pm for Christmas Break

I was delighted to see so many people at our Open Mornings and Open Evening, as well as our Sixth Form Open Evening. It gave me the chance to meet prospective parents and answer any questions that they had. I am also very grateful for the support that our parents have shown as we have had to hold a number of events virtually to you such as information evenings and Year 7 welcome events. This week will see us trial our first ever virtual parents' evening with Year 11, I am keeping my fingers crossed that the technology does not fail us and we have trialled this system repeatedly. In addition, we have been live streaming lessons regularly and the feedback we have had has been incredibly positive.

A reminder to Year 11 not to forget to complete your sixth form application form and return this by 13 November. Every department has made a video about their subject at A Level which provides you with lots of information in order to make your subject choices if you are planning to stay here for sixth form. Please view further information of all of our subjects on the following link: <https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/page/?title=virtual+Sixth+Form+Open+Evening+%2D+15+October+2020&pid=364>

Finally, I wish you all a restful half term break, everyone fully deserves this break and in my time as a teacher and Headteacher I have never experienced such a demanding but rewarding period. #TeamMaidenErlegh continues to flourish despite the crazy world we are in now – let's recharge those batteries and go again in November. **Take care and stay safe.**

Mr P Gibson



We'd love to hear your feedback, whether 'slick' or 'slack' we'd love to hear from you. Please click on slick or slack to submit for your feedback.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Know the past, shape the future.

October marks Black History Month in the UK. Join us in celebrating the inspiring work of people of colour. Below are just three of the numerous people celebrated this month across the school and it has been wonderful learning and exploring these influential people of colour with our students and the local community. We hope students are encouraged and truly inspired by the achievements that we have been celebrating this October.

Ozwald Boateng is a British designer of Ghanaian descent known for his bespoke style and twist on British design. Inspired by his father's sense of style Ozwald used his mother's sewing machine to start designing clothes to sell to his classmates at school. He opened a boutique on Saville Row in London in 1995 and has since developed a business with annual revenues in the millions of pounds. Ozwald has designed suits for many TV shows and films, including 'The Matrix' and 'Sex and the City', and is known for his charity work helping to develop infrastructure across the African continent.



Lilian Bader, who died in 2015 aged 97, was one of the first women to join the British armed services. Born in Liverpool she was orphaned at age 9 and brought up in a convent until she was 20. When World War 2 broke out she enlisted in the military and finally settled in the Royal Air Force working as an instrument repairer and leading aircraftwoman - she served until soon before the end of the war. After WW2 ended she gained a degree and became a teacher.

Read more about how Lilian overcame racism and discrimination here:

<https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/blog/lilian-bader-the-first-black-woman-to-join-the-raf>



Malorie Blackman is a British writer who has written more than 60 books for children and young adults as well as for several TV series episodes including Doctor Who. Her books have been translated into over 15 languages from around the world and in 2013 she was appointed as the UK's 'Children's laureate', a position given to a writer of children's literature who has made an outstanding contribution to the field. Malorie is particularly known for her 'Noughts and Crosses' series of books where she explores racism through an imagined dystopian society.

The British Council has more on Malorie's career at:

<https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/malorie-blackman>





WILDE



CURIE



BOLT



ATTENBOROUGH



YOUAFZAI



RODDICK

House News

What a half term we have had! We started the year with our first **Virtual House Assembly**, which was delivered on Friday 18 September to all students during tutor time. During this assembly, our House Ambassadors shared their vision for each House and what they expected from the members of their house throughout the upcoming year. All students were also reminded about the values each House represents and were introduced to the House events that were coming up over the course of our first term.

CURIE



ATTENBOROUGH



BOLT



YOUAFZAI



RODDICK



WILDE



Understand more; fear less.

Explore, discover and enjoy.

Never quit.
Be fearless.

One pen can change the world.

Be daring.
Be different.
Be first.
Be fair.

Be yourself, everybody else is taken.

There have also been so many opportunities for students to engage in House competitions and we have been most impressed by all the entries that have been coming in.

This half term, students have been involved in:

- ◊ The Maths Foundation Problem of the week
- ◊ European Day of Languages Photo challenge
- ◊ National Poetry Day Competition
- ◊ Science Selfie Challenge
- ◊ Film Competition

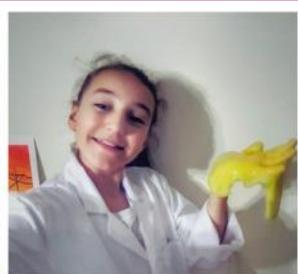
Well done to everyone who has been getting involved.

Don't forget, it's not too late to get your entries in for the Maths Challenges, Poetry Competition and Film Competition. Have a look at your House google classrooms page or follow us on Twitter and Instagram for all the latest updates:



Science Selfie House Competition

The Science Selfie House Competition results are in! Our 4 winning selfies are Ananya A for Team Roddick, Henry H for Team Attenborough, Oscar B for Team Wilde and Sara M for Team Wilde.



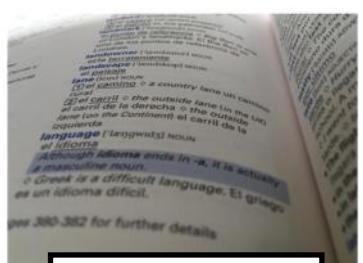
MFL PHOTO COMPETITION



THIRD PLACE
Henry O H (Attenborough)
5 Points
No peeing here sign



JOINT SECOND PLACE
Lucy W (Roddick) AND
Thomas G (Yousafzai)
10 Points
German Culture
Learning Languages Online



FIRST PLACE
Christian B (Yousafzai)
20 Points
Language - El Idioma

HALF TERM SCORES ON THE DOORS...

- 1st place- Team Wilde with 2,202 points**
2nd place- Team Bolt with 2,184 points
3rd place- Team Roddick with 2,089 points
4th place- Team Attenborough with 2,010 points
5th place- Team Yousafzai with 1,944 points
6th place- Team Curie with 1,939 points

There aren't many house points between first and sixth place so every entry to a competition and every house point you earn in class COUNTS!

Colour Blindness



Colour blindness affects 1 in 12 boys (8%) and 1 in 200 girls. There are approximately 3 million colour-blind people in the UK, and 400,000 are school children – that's one in every classroom!

If you are aware that your child has colour blindness can you please email the school office: mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

We can ensure that teachers are aware of this, so they can support them but also we have to arrange exam concessions for GCSE's and A-Level examinations.



Shortlisted for Secondary School of the Year

We are delighted to announce that Maiden Erlegh School have been shortlisted for Secondary School of the Year in the annual Times Education Awards. Thank you for all of your support. Further information on this can be found on the following link: <https://www.tes.com/news/tes-schools-awards-2020-shortlist>

Mental Health Awareness

Thankyou to all those that bought a green mental health awareness ribbon. We have raised a fantastic £165.63 which are much needed funds to support mental health provision in our inclusion department.



Art for Research Reading's 2019/20 Artwork Competition Winners

Back in March, two of our Year 8 students who entered the Art for Research Reading competition, were awarded 1st & 2nd prizes in their age category! Unfortunately, the exhibition of everyone's work with the prize giving at the Great Hall, Reading University, was cancelled at the last minute due to lockdown! Here they are with their entries as Mr Jones, HOY congratulated them on their success and gave them their prizes of art materials and books. A huge well done to Neha and Natalia and to the Year 8 students who entered.

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

OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & SUCCESS FOR ALL

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*Click on the ParentPay logo to login and
register your account.
Any queries please email us at
ParentPay@maidenerleghschool.co.uk*



ParentPay

JOIN THE NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB

ART&DESIGN

- The Art&Design Saturday Club is the perfect space for you to explore your creativity and learn an array of practical skills
- Take part in an inspiring range of activities and workshops, such as animation, architecture, photography, illustration, graphics and fine art
- Experiment freely and think imaginatively whilst broadening your understanding of career opportunities in the creative industries and beyond



Image credit: Daniel Spencer, Steve Tanner, James Turnbull

IT'S FREE AND OPEN TO 13-16 YEAR OLDS OF ALL ABILITIES

CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE CLUB

IT'S FREE AND OPEN TO 13-16 YEAR OLDS OF ALL ABILITIES

In partnership with
BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL

CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE CLUB

5 REASONS TO JOIN THE CLUB

- Heart icon: Discover your talents and learn new skills
- Star icon: Explore a subject you are interested in with no exams
- Diploma icon: Gain an insight into future careers and meet industry experts
- People icon: Grow in confidence, meet new people and form friendships
- Location pin icon: Visit new places, go on trips and exhibit your work all for free!

“
The Saturday Club is great way to meet new people and do art at the same time. There is always something really fun and creative to do and I always really look forward to going each week. – Club member



ABOUT NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB

Across the UK, the National Saturday Club gives 13–16 year olds the opportunity to study subjects they love for free, at their local university, college or cultural institution.

Club members attend local classes every Saturday, for up to 30 weeks of the year, where professional tutors put

together an inspirational programme of weekly Saturday classes. Clubs also take part in national network events including Masterclasses with leading industry professionals, inspirational visits, trips and tours, and the opportunity to exhibit work in a major public exhibition.



Image credit: Masterclass with Pentland Brands, Graham Carlow

Supported using public funding by



CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE CLUB

JOIN THE NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB

FASHION&BUSINESS

- Fashion&Business Saturday Clubs offer an up-to-the-minute view of the global fashion industry from materials technology and footwear design to editorial photoshoots and trend forecasting
- Develop your technical skills as well as key transferable skills, such as creative problem-solving and business acumen
- The Club will introduce you to a vast range of opportunities in this dynamic sector



Image credit: London College of Fashion; English National Opera costume Masterclass, Magnus Andersson; Kingston University London

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“
I've made some wonderful friends and learnt countless new skills that can transfer into my work and life. But most importantly it's opened my eyes to the fact this is what I want to do with my life. The fashion industry is where I belong. – Club member



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Image credit: Masterclass at Alexander McQueen, Ben Hughes

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CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE CLUB



October 2020

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the MESPA Newsletter.

We hope that your son/daughter has settled into the new school routine.

Despite the pandemic we continue to raise money to pay for equipment and activities that are not funded through the central government education budget.

All the money raised supports and enriches the education of your child by improving the school environment and funding extracurricular activities that benefit everyone.

Only last month we paid for more than £10,000 worth of equipment to help the school provide lessons while keeping students and staff safe from infection.

Last year we funded two new minibuses; design and technology equipment; gym mats; a water bottle filling station; mini tablets; visualisers; subscription for specialist magazines and journals; a defibrillator; and blinds for the sixth form.

All this money is raised through donations and we need your help more than ever before. Without your support, we would not be able to fund any of these projects.



Raise free funds for us every time you shop online through easyfundraising

Shop with over 3,000 online sites including:

amazon.co.uk John Lewis ebay M&S Boden G&P Sainsbury's ASOS Agoda Booking.com DEbenhams Next scampix Viking moonpig

[Find out more](#)

NEW TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

JOIN
OUR LOTTERY
TODAY!
Help boost school funds
Win up to £25,000



How you can help

- Volunteer at our painting weekends – we save the school thousands of pounds by painting parts of the school that need some love and attention.



- Set up a regular standing order donation, please [follow this link](#) to a donation form and return it to info@mespa.org.uk
- Take part in our weekly school lottery where you have the chance to win a £25,000 grand prize and local cash prizes. [Click here to join](#) the Maiden Erlegh School Lottery Ticket
- Join 'easyfundraising' – every time you shop online, we receive a small donation, and it does not cost you a penny. [Click on the link today to join.](#)

Our next painting weekend will be at the end of the Winter term in February.

You do not need to be a professional painter.

On the day we will observe strict social distancing rules and you will be provided with gloves and face masks. All you need to do is wear your best painting clothes and let us know the dates you can help. We will provide all the equipment and paint.

[If you can help – click here.](#)



Join us – we are parents and relatives of children at Maiden Erlegh School in Earley. If you would like to help raise funds, join the organising committee or simply volunteer from time to time, [please fill this form](#). Contact us at info@MESPA.org.uk



Are you thinking about kick-starting an exciting new career in teaching?

TRAIN TO TEACH VIRTUAL EVENING



Thursday 26 November 2020 18.00 – 19.00

Are you thinking about kick-starting an exciting new career in teaching? If so, our Train to Teach event is the perfect opportunity for you to learn all you need to know about teacher training and how to apply.

Due to Covid, we are running the event virtually. The event will include a presentation from the Director of the Teaching School and Q&A session.

We work with the University of Reading to provide high quality training and support. Pass rates are high and our schools often retain

trainees through to NQT and beyond.

Maiden Erlegh is an 'Outstanding' school and collaborates with a variety of schools within its Alliance. You will train alongside outstanding teachers and gain excellent professional development.

All trainees must hold an undergraduate degree 2:2 or above and GCSE Maths C and English C. (Primary trainees also require a GCSE Science C).

[Click here to book](#)

**Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road,
Earley, RG6 7HS**

**www.berkshireteachingschoolalliance.co.uk
mesteachingschool@maidenerleghtrust.org**

In partnership with the
Institute of Education