



# Maiden Erlegh School NEWSBLAST

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OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & SUCCESS FOR ALL

18 December 2017 - Issue 13

## From the Headteacher



In education we spend a lot of time focusing on what we can do to make things better and to progress a little more. Those reflections are important, but it is essential also to remind ourselves of our strengths and of everything that has gone well.

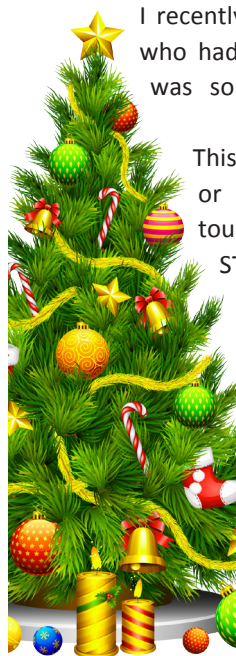
We started the term with tremendous examination results. Our sixth formers performed very well and our Progress 8 score for Year 11, of +0.65, puts us in line with the top 12% of schools nationally. And all of this with new courses in all year groups.

Over the course of the term, our new students have settled into their respective year groups exceptionally well, and participation by all students in clubs, squads, music and drama groups, after school activities, competitions and trips is tremendous. I think this aspect of school life should never be underestimated. There is much consideration at the moment, quite rightly, about wellbeing, and we know that students who participate in the whole of school life, make more friends, feel more integrated and so feel happier. This clearly has a hugely positive impact on their wellbeing, but also their performance in examinations.

I want also to commend our students who have represented our values so well outside school, whether on the sports field, on trips and visits or in and around the community. I frequently get emails and calls from members of the public who praise our students –

I recently received one from a Canadian gentleman who had met one of our students on a plane and was so impressed, he felt compelled to write!

This academic year we have over 40 trips or residentials planned ranging from sports tournaments, theatre trips, gallery viewings, STEM visits and fun trips too. All these are organised and led voluntarily by staff, often in their own time, and I must thank them for their commitment to providing such an enrichment programme. Next term some of our sixth formers will visit CERN and others will take part in work experience in France – and of course our skiers will start their preparation for the Easter trip.



## CALENDAR

19 December	Last Day of Term - Students will be dismissed at 12.15pm
20 Dec - 2 Jan	Christmas Break - School Closed
3 January	Students return to School
16 January	Y12 & Y13 Progress Evening
17 January	Inset Day

Well done to all the students – a fantastic term where you have worked hard, participated well and shown the quality of your character and company.

With regard to my colleagues, I could go on for pages thanking all the staff for their hard work this term and the daily examples of going above and beyond for the students and to support each other, but to quote Shakespeare “I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks and ever thanks ....”.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. I hope you have a restful break and I look forward to happy and successful 2018.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

## Schools Guide 2018

We are very proud that Maiden Erlegh School has improved its ranking in the Sunday Times School Guide 2018, moving from 345 to 337/500 overall and ranking 171/500 for our GCSE performance. The top 500 state schools includes fully and partially selective maintained schools.

## The Life of Tom Holmes

Now if you didn't know we have our very own professional footballer in our ranks. Last year Tom Holmes returned to us for Sixth Form, having previously attended in Years 7, 8 and 9 before leaving to go to Forest School for Years 10 and 11. As well as studying for his Maths and Physics A levels Tom is currently playing for the Reading U23s, made even more impressive by the fact that he is still only 17. He has represented them over 13 times so far this season in league fixtures as well as the Checktrade Trophy, a professional FA run competition where he and his team came up against first team League One and Two opposition. We'd like to wish Tom luck for the rest of the season and for his A levels.



## Young Carers Silver Award



Congratulations to Miss C Nimmo and all those who have supported the Young Carers. After achieving the Bronze Award in only

April of this year, they have now secured the Silver Award for our work at Maiden Erlegh School.

Young Carers are often silent heroes, managing school work, home responsibilities with selflessness and maturity. They deserve all the support that we can reasonably provide.

## Bikeability Level 3



As the October half term course was so popular, Wokingham Borough Council are running another Bikeability Level 3 course at St. Crispin's Leisure Centre on Wednesday 14 February 2018 from 9.30 – 15.30 (trainees need to bring a packed lunch with them).

The majority of your children will have attended Bikeability Level 2 training (on quiet roads) at Primary schools but Level 3 is recommended for Secondary School students who are cycling to/from school (or those who plan to cycle in the future).

The one-day course covers cycling on busier roads, dealing with more complex junctions and roundabouts and some route-planning. Students MUST have passed Bikeability Level 2 before attending a Level 3 course.

For further details and how to book see the MyJourney Wokingham website at: [www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/bikeability-level-3-course-14th-february-2018/](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/bikeability-level-3-course-14th-february-2018/)

## The Girls with Yellow Hands

The A-Level theatre students performed their devised piece 'The Girls with Yellow Hands' to a full audience in D1 on Thursday 7 December. The piece was about women working in the munitions factories during WW1. The cast was Mollie Irvin, Iqra Zamir, Kunashe Mukupuki and was directed by Oliver Burns. The piece revealed the pressures on these women, emerging feminist arguments and the power struggles between them. They were supported by an excellent technical team: Lewis Manning, Georgia Beasley and Grace Beesley. Thank you also to Mrs Davies from English, for supporting with original texts.



## Maiden Erlegh Winter Poetry Competition

Now that winter has well and truly returned, Maiden Erlegh's annual winter poetry competition is back once again!

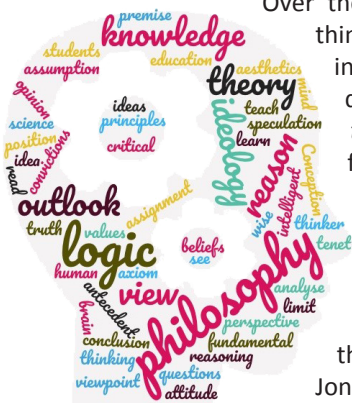
Submit a poem of any length to Mrs Clark or Miss Mallon to be in with the chance to win some fantastic prizes. Last year's entries saw winners across the year groups, so don't be afraid to submit a poem about what winter means to you.



We have launched our New Style Reports! Click here to jump to the full information or scroll down.



## Philosophy Club



Over the last seven weeks, over 30 enthusiastic and deep thinking Year 7 and 8 students have involved themselves in Philosophy Club sessions, exploring the ultimate questions of life ranging from 'is there life after death?' to 'how do we know we exist?'. The intelligent responses from these students amazed the R.S. team, really showing how reflective and insightful our students are!

One of the sessions involved a heated debate with Mr Thomas about whether the Ontological argument is successful at defining God into existence and during the Halloween special, students deliberated with Miss Jones over whether they saw themselves as monists, dualists or materialists. The last session involved an ultimate Philosophy Quiz, which brought intense competition and displayed some outstanding knowledge!

Thank you to all the R.S. teachers who ran sessions and to all students who got involved!



*Reminder*

**SCHOOL CLOSSES**  
**Tuesday 19 December**

Students will be dismissed at 12.15pm

Students return to School on Wednesday 3 January



Best Wishes for the Festive Season

## Bike and House Security

The Earley Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) have asked us to remind you of some simple actions which can help protect bikes, or retrieve them on the rare occasion they are lost or stolen:

- Make a note of the ID number of the Bike. This can be found by turning the bike upside down and taking a photo of the ID number on the frame.
- Ensure you have a good quality padlock.

The police say that they are often found but cannot be returned to their owners as they cannot be identified.

They also say that at this time of year there tends to be more burglaries and so it is important to keep side gates and back doors locked, as burglars seem to favour this for entry into homes.

## 3D Printing has arrived in the Design & Technology Department

We are pleased to share that the Design and Technology Department has purchased a new 3D printer. We are hoping to use this with all year groups and with an after school enterprise group. The pictures here show Year 12 configuring the unit and beginning to print their first ideas. To support 3D printing, we are recommending that all design and technology students download a free programme called 'Google SketchUp', the make version not the pro version.



We are excited to see how Year 9 and 10 have started to develop their design work using Google SketchUp, giving a much clearer 3D view and prototyping opportunities for their work. There are plenty of tutorials on you tube and 'SketchUp' is recognised in industry. Please follow this link to download SketchUp: <https://www.sketchup.com/download>

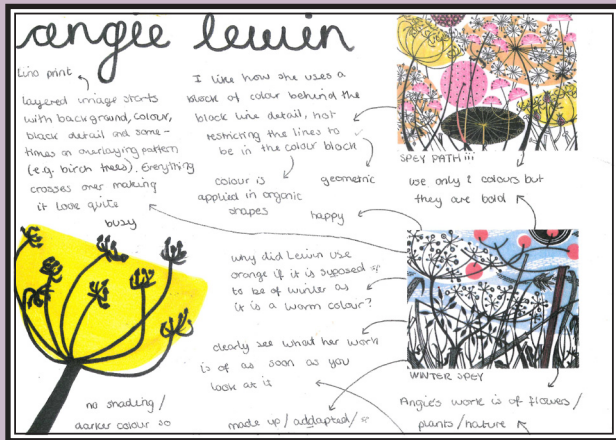
We are looking for industry links to help us develop our learning opportunities for students, if you are interested in getting involved, perhaps with a site visit or coming into school to share how design and technology is used within your company then we would be keen to hear from you! Possible industries but not limited to could be: engineering, architecture, design, advertising, packaging, game design, electronics, exhibition design, modelmaking, jewellery and silversmithing etc..

Due to the limited budget available, we are asking all students in Years 7 and 8 to make a voluntary contribution of £5 towards the cost of materials. To help us supplement students' projects with more desirable materials we are seeking contacts at companies that may know of excess, discarded or unwanted materials that could be used, such as acrylic, softwood / hardwood and aluminium sheeting and section. Please contact Mr Curtis for more details: [ct@maidenerleghschool.co.uk](mailto:ct@maidenerleghschool.co.uk)

## Artists of the Month

Congratulations to Lexi Hayden Yr7, Hannah-Joy Hill Yr7, Katie Gould Yr9, Katie Jackman Yr9 and Wiktoria Sternik Yr13 for being awarded 'Artist of the Month' for November.

Congratulations also goes to Dean Thorn for October's 'Artist of the Month'.



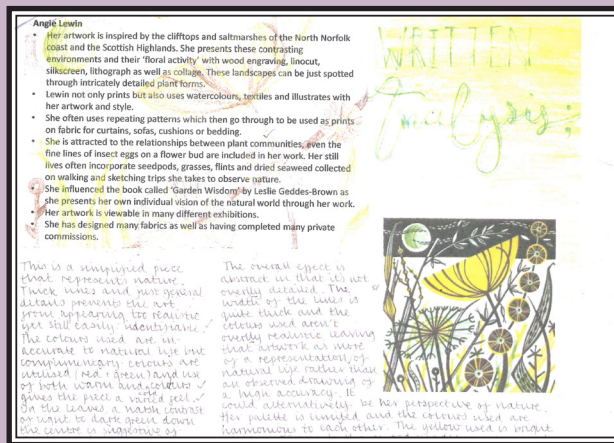
Katie Gould



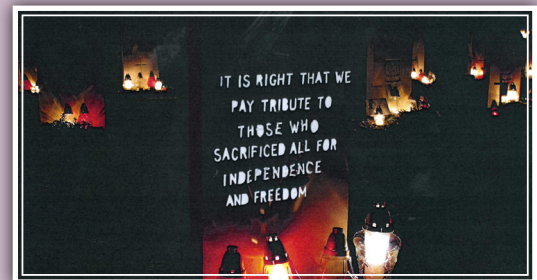
Lexi Hayden



Hannah-Joy Hill



Katie Jackman



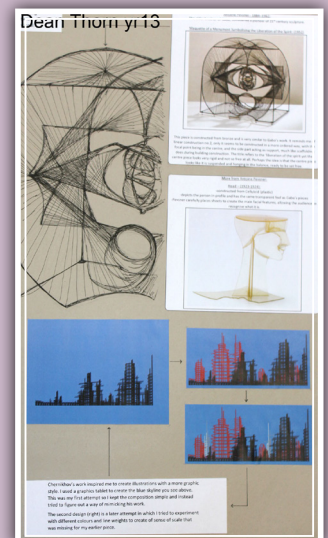
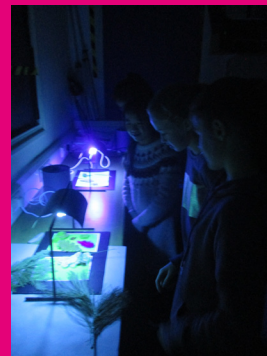
Wiktoria Sternik

## Art Gifted and Talented Workshops for Foundation Students

Ten students from Year 7 and Year 8 were invited to attend two Cyanotype Photography workshops with local artist Meryl Donoghue.

The students participating achieved the highest attainment in their year group in Art. The lucky few who were invited had a great time exploring the magic of light using one of the first types of photography.

Thank you to Meryl for her time and the industrious and talented artists who once started were hooked into the cyanotype process creating some fantastic results.



Dean Thorn



## ASDAN Events

On 5 December, Year 9 and 11 ASDAN students went to South Hill Park, Bracknell to watch Beauty and the Beast Panto.

The visit was enjoyed by all and the students had a chance to meet the cast after the show.

This formed part of their ASDAN Level 1 & 2 'Certificate in Personal Effectiveness'. They worked towards several tasks for their Expressive Arts Module. After they watched the performance, they put together a presentation about their visit to The Wilde Theatre and the story of Beauty and the Beast.

The visit was a joint venture with Maiden Erlegh Reading ASDAN Year 9 students.



The Year 9 and Year 11 ASDAN students took part in a series of hand bell ringing workshops under the direction of Mr G Hedges who teaches hand bell ringing. He was assisted by 2 6th form students, Callum Liddell and Georgia Beasley whose background in music enabled the group to make progress in learning how to hold and play a hand bell and how to read music, keeping time with the group.

After 10 sessions, the group went to Maiden Erlegh Pre-school on Friday 1 December to perform in a concert for the children. They played Frosty the Snowman and Jingle bells and the children and staff at the pre-school thoroughly enjoyed this. The children then had a chance to play hand bells and the staff also joined in.

Year 9 are due to help out again at the pre-school Christmas fayre and Year 10 students are helping organise the pre-school Christmas party.

## Home Is Where The Pool Is!

We are a school that is blessed in many ways for its successful staff and young people and it is very exciting to hear some of the successes of students outside of school also. One of our Year 8 students, Rebecca Saunders, has been doing fantastically well in synchronised swimming this year and we wanted to share with you some of her achievements.

Multi Regionals in Crawley (Oct 2017)	Scottish National in Glasgow (Oct 2017)	English National in Gloucester (Nov 2017)
Gold for Figures	Gold for Figures	Fourth in Figures
Gold for Duet	Gold for Duet	Gold in Duet
Silver for Solo	Bronze Solo	Silver in Solo
Gold for team		Gold in Team

Please use the links below for further information

<http://www.swimming.org/synchro/staples-saunders-take-gold-12yrs-duet/>

<http://www.swimming.org/synchro/reading-royals-win-12yrs-team-gold/>

Rebecca has recently won a trial for the England Development Squad!! Rebecca and her family are still waiting for the results of this trial. We would like to wish Rebecca all the very best in her fantastic career in synchronised swimming.



### Christmas Village

The hustle and bustle of morning school life can be overwhelming, so we in Inclusion open our doors early for a small group of students to provide them with a calm environment to prepare for the day. This also provides social opportunities for these students.

One of the TAs, Mrs Godfrey, who supports these students in the morning had an idea for them to create a Christmas village during these morning sessions. So after collecting various items such as cardboard boxes, newspaper and sweet wrappers (plenty of willing

volunteers to help with this one), she organised the students into designing and creating buildings for the village. Windows, lights and snow were added to create a wonderful Christmassy feel, as seen in the photo.

The boys involved have really enjoyed the project and are very proud of their creation. Huge thanks must go to Mrs Godfrey for this initiative, and we are all wondering what will be next....



### Green Fingers!

We are starting a gardening project for the Inclusion area; if you have any spare items on the list below and would like to donate for this wonderful cause, we would be grateful if you could hand them in at reception for the attention of Emma Wheeler after the Christmas break. Thank you (in spades!).

Sandpaper  
Wood varnish  
Wood paint – preferably blue  
Onion bulbs  
Plants/vegetables (that can be planted in January)  
Trowels  
Forks  
Gardening gloves



### Christmas Trees

 **Wyevale** garden centres

We would like to thank the Maiden Erlegh School Parents' Association and Wyevale Garden Centre for providing some Christmas cheer and stepping in to provide Christmas trees for the Trust.

It is very much appreciated and they look fabulous.

*Merry Christmas*



### 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 email us at [ParentPay@maidenerleghschool.co.uk](mailto:ParentPay@maidenerleghschool.co.uk)



# New Style Reports

The new style reports seem to have been generally well received by the students and you their parents. They were intended to be clearer and more informative. As this is a new system I have reviewed the correspondence from parents and met with some of our student ambassadors as well as consulting with staff. Some clarifications and some amendments would seem helpful at this stage prior to the next set of reports.

## Clarifications

### Colour Coding

The colour coding for the flagging of attainment has been described more clearly and flight paths have been reset in some instances.

The description on the back of the tracking report is changing from:

#### Key to attainment colour coding

Well above average
Above average
At average
Below average

To:

#### Key to attainment colour coding

Above flight path
On or within 2 fine grades of flight path
3 or 4 fine grades below flight path
5 or more fine grades below flight path

Students should aim to be on or within 2 fine grades of flight path in all subjects.

In Year 11 the red flags have also been moved to only flag when 7 or more fine grades below flight path rather than 5 or more which was the previous criteria and still used across Years 7 to 10.

### Behaviour for Learning Codes

Alongside the initial behaviour for learning codes the following have now been added:

The following codes have been added:

AW – Amount of Work

WQ – Work Quality

RL – Rote learning and ability to memorise

SW – Show working more clearly

Please note WR will be phased out and replaced with AW and WQ.

I hope you have found the new style reports been helpful in identifying how your child is doing at Maiden Erlegh School.

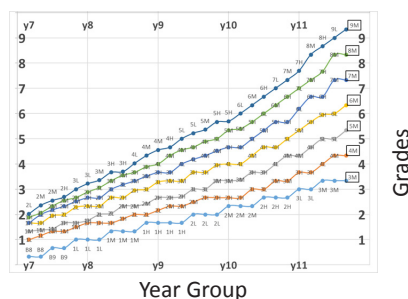
Please remember you will find fuller subject specific feedback on your child's learning within their school exercise books or folders.

**Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Graham Attridge, AHT Trust Lead for Assessment should you need further clarification.**

### Flight Path Adjustments

The flight path starting points in Year 7 humanities have now been reset in order to better match the actual attainment grades determined by the teaching staff. Students will see new expected grades in Geography, History and Religious Education. This will mean less amber or red flags and more green and possibly some blue flags. The end point for KS4 GCSE has not been changed just the calculation that generated the expected starting point and, consequently the flight path in between for the journey through the next 5 years.

The flight path starting point in Year 9 Physical Education has been redefined. In the foundation stage all students are reported a PE assessment grade which is broadly determined by their ability to show the physical skills in the individual sports covered in the curriculum. In Year 9, only those continuing to study PE as an option to GCSE are reported. The assessment criteria for GCSE, while using the same fine numerical grades, are now more aligned with the student's academic ability. This could mean that the assessed PE grade at the start of Year 9 could be lower than the grade assessed at the end of Year 8.



The graphic above has been found useful in illustrating how the expected grades will enable a student to reach their benchmark in line with their ability.

Each flight path is individually tailored to each student.

A student's performance in the Year 6 SATS enables us to determine aspirational benchmarks in each subject. For this we use the Fischer family Trust student estimates. This determines the end point of the flight path.

A student's starting point on the flight path is either determined by their Year 6 SATS or by a baseline assessment depending on which is deemed the most helpful for that particular subject area.

The flight path is then modelled to enable the student to make steady but increasing progress towards their benchmark.