



# Maiden Erlegh School NEWSBLAST

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OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & SUCCESS FOR ALL

18 October 2018 - Issue 23

## From the Headteacher



Maiden Erlegh School has had a very busy but very positive half term. I am so proud of the extremely positive review of our work by Ofsted coming after our excellent examination results. I cannot say enough how deserved both are from the point of view of the staff and the students.

I'd like to congratulate our new staff and trainees for settling in so well. We welcome two former students back as teachers.

Apart from making some of us feel very old, it is fantastic to see former students of such great calibre coming into teaching, and coming here.

As ever, school has been busy with a full range of extra-curricular activities. We currently have our Year 9 Rugby and Hockey Tour in Tirabad, and we have the preparations already happening for our January production of "Grease", Art Workshops, Maths Puzzle days, an Oxbridge/University Interview Day and many more.

Thank you to all the parents who have attended our various information and options evenings, and Gold and Silver Programme launches. The feedback has been extremely positive and helpful to make them even better next time.

I hope you all have a restful half term and thank you for all your support.

Mary Davies

## CALENDAR

18 October	Year 11E Progress Meetings
22-26 October	Half Term
29 October	Students return to school
6 November	Senior Maths Challenge
7 November	Year 12 Safe Drive Stay Alive - Hexagon
7 November	GCSE & A Level Music Concert
8 November	Year 9 Last Orders Theatre Production - P1&2
12 November	Year 7 Tirabad Adventure
13 November	Year Council Meeting
15 November	School Closed for Staff Training Day



## THINKING IS THE BEST TYPE OF WORKING

One of the very many positive things Ofsted said about the school but that did not appear in the final letter was that the school is "an environment where (students) can think" and that the inspectors saw "a lot of thinking going on". We are very proud of that, as encouraging students to be independent thinkers and problem-solvers is extremely important for us. Quite apart from this being an important life and employability skill, the new GCSE and A Levels demand a critical-thinking and enquiry approach.

It is very interesting to see that the current Year 12 have found the move to A Level slightly easier this year, having taken the new-style GCSEs almost across the board. These new GCSEs already have much higher expectations of knowledge and understanding, and of how they are applied to increasingly complex problems. This prepares students much better for A Level.

Our Year 13 students took a mixture of old and new GCSEs and we have noticed that a small number of Year 13s continue to find these expectations challenging, and are having to work much harder at driving their own knowledge acquisition and engaging with enquiry in lessons and for homework.

Accomplishment comes from:

1. Do what is asked of them – on time.
2. Review their notes/work each week.
3. Re-do work to bring it up to scratch.
4. Read/watch/listen around the subject.
5. Don't wait to be told to do something – they have **"learning initiative"**. ★★★★★

In assemblies to sixth formers, we go through this slide and stress how important it is to take the "learning initiative". One of the hardest messages some students have to hear, is that great results cannot be done TO them. Our expert teachers will give students the tools, give them many opportunities to discuss and practice, and guide them towards extra reading.

**Safeguarding Lead: Mrs S Bendall - bd@maidenerleghschool.co.uk**

*Staff "feel proud to work at the school"*

*Student to an inspector "genuinely proud of my school"*

*"...a clear commitment to the welfare of pupils and staff. Consequently, there is a very positive learning culture in the school."*

*"Dedicated and highly skilled pastoral staff work determinedly and sensitively alongside parents and external agencies to support pupils"*

*Students "make excellent progress across all areas of the curriculum"*

*"Sixth-form outcomes are typically strong, ensuring that students are very well prepared for their next steps."*

*"The work of the inclusion centre is particularly impressive"*

*Inclusion area "a clear and appropriate vision" an "incredible area which is a supportive and nurturing environment and which means strong learning support."*

**"A happy school"**

OFSTED INSPECTION LETTER [HERE](#)

*"The careers education programme is exemplary"*

*"Opportunities for pupils' personal, social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) education are well developed."*



*"The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is consistently strong."*

*Inspector comment re teaching and learning: "real expertise."*

- *Building on prior knowledge*
- *Routines for learning, not wasting time*
- *Not "compliance teaching"*
- *"An environment where they can think"*

*Staff feel well supported and take part in a range of developmental activities that improve their practice.*

- *"Teachers and support staff take responsibility for keeping themselves up to date (online forums etc)"*
- *"Discussions about research."*
- *"No hierarchy within teams so NQT can coach experiences if knowledge is there (subject knowledge)."*

*"The taught curriculum in the sixth form is supported by a strong programme of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education."*

*"The local advisory board champions hold leaders effectively to account ... and ensure that the impact of improvement plans is evaluated rigorously."*

## Student Voice News

At Maiden Erlegh we strongly believe that every single student has a voice that should be heard in school, therefore our student voice programme allows students to share who they are and what they believe in. Students have a number of ways that they can contribute to the improvement of both the school and local community.

	Process
<b>Student Council</b>	Students can be selected as tutor representatives and attend half termly meeting. All students are welcome to attend.
<b>Students Ambassadors</b>	Student ambassadors attend half termly meetings to discuss the following issues; learning, culture, wellbeing, work related learning and curriculum.
<b>Youth Parliament Ballot</b>	During tutor students will be given a ballot slip where they can choose the topics that they would like the youth parliament council to focus on this year.
<b>Wokingham Borough Student Voice</b>	Students from last year's student council can attend the Wokingham Council Chamber to take part in the Local Council meeting to share their views.
<b>Student Voice email</b>	Email address set up so students can email their comments. This is monitored by the sixth form team.
<b>Mock Trials</b>	Year 8 Silver Programme students can attend the Mock Trial competition.

Any students who would to know more about the above opportunity should speak to Miss Young or Miss Kelly.

## Exams Contingency Day 2019

The awarding bodies have designated Wednesday 26 June 2019 as a 'contingency day' for summer examinations timetabled from 10 May – 25 June 2019.

Until candidates have sat their final examination in this period, all candidates must remain available until Wednesday 26 June 2019 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan in the event of national or local disruption to examinations.

## A New Member of the School Community

One of the joys of teaching, as any teacher will tell you, is that every day is different. This can mean more thought provoking, more uplifting, more challenging or on occasion just more unusual.

The latter was true last Friday when a cat wandered into my Year 11 maths lesson via an external door. This lovely black and white moggy ambled into the classroom and, pausing only for a quick rub against a pile of books, continued on its way, oblivious to its audience and navigated through the classroom door and onto the maths corridor as we all looked on in amusement.

Your children will probably be able to tell you that the cat appeared at the start of term and has now become a regular visitor to school where there is always a student ready to make a fuss of it. So if you live on Silverdale or Sevenoaks Road and are the owner of a friendly black and white cat which absents itself for much of the day, now you know where it is going...

Mrs A Walker

### The National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band

## Join the NSGSO or NSGCB 2019!

**Stourbridge, 28th July - 4th August**

Do you play an orchestral or concert band instrument? Will you be aged between 12 and 25 by August 2019? Then we want to hear from you!

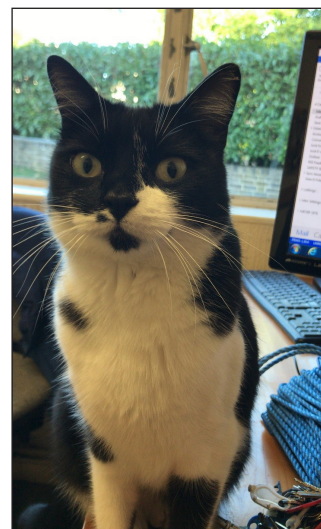
Following the Success of the NSGSO & NSGCB 2018 with 142 members we are looking to make our next course bigger and better than ever

Both courses include a week of rehearsals and workshops with a professional conductor and sectional tutors alongside concerts and social activities and we want you to join us!

For more information and to apply go to:

**[apply.nsgso.com](http://apply.nsgso.com)**  
or email [info@nsgso.com](mailto:info@nsgso.com)

Applications close at midnight on Saturday 15th December so don't wait - apply now! You will hear by the New Year if you have been successful



# Careers, Work Experience and Work-Related Learning

The purpose of our careers provision is to:

- Provide a differentiated and personalised learning programme that is appropriate to the student's needs and stage of career learning, planning and development.
- Provide impartial advice and guidance so that students are aware of the different destination routes available to them and how to get here.
- Develop work-ready skills so that students achieve satisfaction in the world beyond secondary school.
- Empower students so that they embark on a student-led programme.

We have had a very busy start to the new academic year in terms of Careers provision at Maiden Erlegh School. The week commencing Monday 15 October will mark the celebration of our first ever #Careers week. There are 6 of these weeks calendared across the academic year and the purpose is to raise awareness to students of the importance of linking curriculum learning to careers and destinations. The focus of week 1 will include exploring different subjects and learning about how they fit into possible careers, the different workplace skills students will learn and how subject know-how will help students in the world of work.

We are also fortunate to have 18 Careers Ambassadors to help champion careers and destinations across the curriculum. These are members of staff from the different departments who will support the #Careers week across the year and will also be the subject go-to colleague for more information.

We are in the process of planning our annual Careers Fair and registration is now open for parents/guardians to represent their profession. This will take place on Tuesday 5 February 2019 7pm-9pm and promises to be the biggest and best yet, with new exhibitors and more invitees from all across Maiden Erlegh Trust. If you are able to take part as an exhibitor or know someone who is, please email the school office [office@maidenerleghschool.co.uk](mailto:office@maidenerleghschool.co.uk) with the subject title 'Careers Fair' and we will be in touch.

## Year 11

We have begun our programme of careers interviews to students in Year 11. Each student will be offered a 25 minute bespoke interview with Adviza (external careers advisor) to explore appropriate destinations post-16. Students are provided with a personalised careers action plan and a list of further websites and information to follow up so that parents are able to discuss potential destinations at home.

The different options explored include:

- Applying to Maiden Erlegh Sixth Form
- Applying to another secondary school
- Applying to a college
- Applying for an apprenticeship

ASK (the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge company) have also delivered an assembly to students so that they have all the relevant information about the different destination routes available to them so they are able to confidently make informed decisions about their futures. It would also benefit students to attend the forthcoming Careers Fair to gain further information and guidance.

## Year 12

We have already launched work experience to students in Year 12 as part of the 16-19 study programme. All students are expected to complete a 30 hour work experience placement which is directly linked to their chosen career aspiration. Students are to actively seek their own work experience placement by researching and contacting potential companies, going through the recruitment process e.g. completing application forms, CVs, interviews, and completing a suitable placement. Please contact Mr Buck, Assistant Headteacher, for further information or support regarding work experience placements.

ASK (the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge company) have delivered an assembly to students so that they can start to think about Apprenticeships as a viable destination route post-18.



## Work of Art

### *Mosaic Workshop with artist Cleo Mussi*

Last Year Mrs Nottage and the Foundation Art Club won a National Art Competition with a mosaic piece of work that they created with a figure shape and individual tiles of clay. Having won the competition, we were rewarded with a wonderful prize; a whole day mosaic workshop working with the Artist Cleo Mussi which included all materials being provided free by Specialist Crafts Company.

On Tuesday 9 October Mrs Nottage along with nineteen Year 8 and two Year 9 students embarked on a wonderful day of mosaic making working alongside the expert Cleo Mussi. The students involved wanted to create a mosaic which included animals that you might see on and around the school site such as; red kites, foxes, bees and butterflies. They also included trees.

The group worked with focus and energy all day creating mosaics in small groups. The results were amazing and the artist Cleo, commented on how amazing our students were producing pieces that were far better than some adult groups that she works with!

A big thank you to Mrs Nottage for organising a day to remember.

And well done to all of those involved.



### *Rivers of the World Art Project*

For the past two years a small group of art students have been involved in the Rivers of the World Project in conjunction with the British Council and the Thames Festival Trust. Eleven Year 9 students continued the project into its second year and last June produced artwork based on our partner schools river in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Here is their finished work on display outside the Royal Festival Hall last month as part of the 'Totally Thames Festival' in London.

Congratulations to Simeon, Sam, Katie, Rebecca, Hannah, Robert, Chloe, Jude, Bella, Leena and Chloe - and also to Mrs Dudman for helping us all with Photoshop.



## Clubs Fair

Maiden Erlegh held their first club fair this week to promote all the clubs that are on offer at school. It was well attended with stalls set up with teachers and 6th formers to answer questions from students and interactive stations.

If you couldn't make it then check out our website or school twitter where you will find information on clubs, alternatively click on the button to view the clubs timetable.



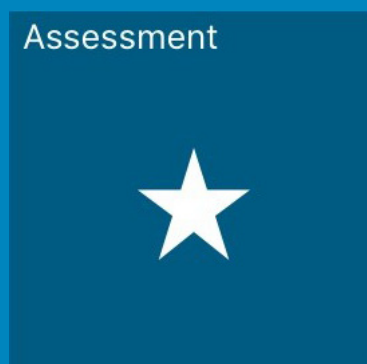
## ***SIMS Parent/Parent App***

Following the successful launch of the user-friendly tool, SIMS Parent/Parent App, which gives you instant access to what is happening at school for your child, we have received some positive feedback which suggests it is very popular with parents.

As we come to the end of this first period of use here is some guidance which you may find helpful about how the App is used in practice.

### ***Assessment Panel***

You may have noticed that the assessment panel was turned off at the end of last week. This will regularly happen during reporting periods as it will mean that you will not see unchecked and unmoderated results. Once the reports have been checked the half-termly report will be accessible and the assessment panel will be switched back on. This panel will then rotate through the core grades in the half-termly report for Years 7-11.



### ***Data Collection Panel***

Please use this panel to update you and your child's contact details. Once you have made a submission the panel will be locked until the change has been actioned by the school.



***For further information and how to set up the new SIMS Parent/Parent App please click in the link below:***

**[SIMS Parent/Parent App Letter](#)**

### ***Conduct Panel***

The Achievements bar shows any recognition points on the green bar with the total points this week being indicated below. The detail for why these have been awarded will be known by your child and often, where appropriate, will be recorded in the student's work. This is intended to be a summary of all the positive achievements that have been acknowledged in school.



The Behaviour bar shows any detentions, appointments or incidents that your child has been recorded in. Not all items recorded here will be negative. For example supportive appointments will show on the red bar; however, these will be recorded as having no behaviour points associated with them. I am working with our provider to find a solution where only detentions or other non-zero pointed behaviours display in this panel. For now please be assured that all supportive interventions are acknowledged within our system to be positive!

### ***Half Termly Reports***

Half termly reports will go live on the SIMS Parent/Parent App on Friday of this week.





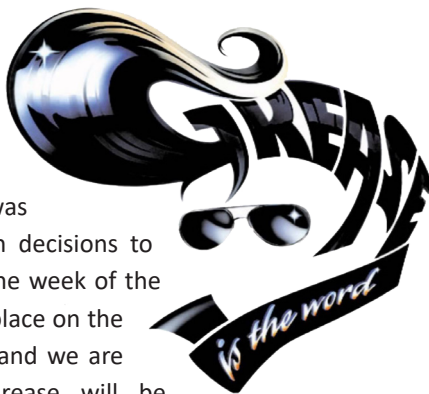
## UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS

7 November	GCSE & A Level Music Concert
22 November	Music trip to see Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall
19 December	Winter Showcase

Follow us on Twitter [@MESMusicDept](https://twitter.com/MESMusicDept) and like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/maidenerleghperformingarts/>

## Grease is the word!

At the beginning of term we launched this year's school production which will be Grease. Auditions took place in the last week of September and every year was represented. The standard of the auditions was extremely high and there are a lot of tough decisions to be made. The cast list will be announced in the week of the 15 October with the first cast meeting taking place on the 17 October. The car is already in production and we are looking forward to rehearsals starting. Grease will be performed from the 29-31 January 2019.



## Drama Workshop

World renowned theatre company, Frantic Assembly hosted an invaluable and informative physical theatre workshop with the A' level drama students and a select few of KS4 students on Monday 1 October. Frantic assembly create a perfect symphony of text, movement and use of set to create some vivid and thought provoking pieces ranging from Othello to Lovesong. Through several techniques, activities and games the students quickly began to pick up the ethos and values that Frantic Assembly have rooted to their core. Students had a jam packed workshop, from learning how to use gestural movement (a simplified version of BSL) to music, to how to apply pressure and focus to simple lifts.

## Boomwhackers

On Wednesday 26 September, 4 students in Year 8 and 10 took part in our gifted and talented workshop. The students were introduced to boomwhackers which are brightly coloured tubes of varying pitches. In the workshop they learnt to play The Chicken Song and Singing in the Rain. A lot of fun was had by everybody involved.



## Extra-Curricular Music Groups

There has been a very good start to the year and attendance at extra-curricular groups has been high. We have been very pleased to welcome lots of new students to our groups. This year we have added the brass group to the list of our ensembles and the first rehearsal was very promising with a strong turnout and sound. The group is being led by Year 11 student Oliver Picken and we look forward to their first concert. Please see our Music Extra-Curricular Programme for details on all the groups available.

## Music Extra-Curricular Programme 2018-19

Day	Time	Group	Level	Room
Monday	8am	Brass Group	All Years	D4
Tuesday	3pm	Senior Band	Grade 3+	D4
Wednesday	8am	Woodwind Group	All Years	D3
Wednesday	8am	String Group	All Years	D4
Wednesday	3pm	Grease Rehearsals	All Cast	D4
Thursday	3pm	Choir	All Years	D4
Friday	8am	Junior Band	Years 7 & 8	D4
Friday	2.20pm	Samba Band	All Years	D4

## BIKEABILITY LEVEL 3 COURSE IN HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Friday 26 October, 9.30am – 3.30pm

St. Crispin's Leisure Centre, London Rd, Wokingham, RG40 1SR

Enjoy riding your bike? Have you already passed Bikeability Level 2? Why not take it to the next level?



Bikeability Level 3 training is for confident cyclists aged 11 years or over and includes:

- Cycling in traffic, using complex junctions, multi-lane roads and busy roundabouts.
- Help with planning cycling routes and riding your route to school or college.
- **Course costs only £10!**

For details see:

<http://www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/bikeability-level-3-friday-26th-october-2018-october-half-term/>

Or: <http://www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/>



## Understanding Low Mood and Depression in Young People

A free online course from the University of Reading. This is aimed at parents and adults who work with young people. Topics covered include:

- What does problematic low mood and depression look like?
- Healthy habits for young people
- Doing more of what matters
- Challenging thoughts
- Family Communication & Self-Care, Planning for the Future and Getting More Help

You can sign up for free here:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/depression-young-people/2/>

## FACILITIES HIRE



We are delighted to be able to offer our facilities for hire to our local community.  
**Click here for further information.**

## The built environment – making everyday life better for all



All Year 10 to 13 students are invited to a talk entitled “The built environment – making everyday life better for all” by Dr Emmanuel A Essah on Tuesday 6 November 2018 at 3.15pm in S2.

Dr Essah is the Associate Professor in Sustainable Technologies and Director of Undergraduate Programmes for the School of the Built Environment at University of Reading.



### 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



## PA Maiden Erlegh School Parents' Association

We are just regular parents like yourselves. Come and join our committee and help us build a better school!

**All parents welcome.**

**Click here to view our website.**



**Check out the latest courses offered by the CResCent Resource Centre:**

**Job Support Extra - Wednesdays**

**Let's Talk English for Improvers - 6 Nov**

**Family Christmas Baking - 17 Nov**

**And many more!**

**Click here to view further information**

### 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)



ParentPay