

THE ENTERPRISE ADVISER NETWORK



CASE STUDY

Maiden Erlegh is a secondary school in Wokingham, Berkshire. It joined the Enterprise Adviser Network in 2016.

80% of Maiden Erlegh's students go onto university, but increasingly students are looking at alternatives such as apprenticeships. The school has reached several milestones in the Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) programme including Senior Leadership endorsement of the programme, and appointing a Careers Lead from within the school to ensure that students are provided with an array of opportunities and a comprehensive careers programme that focuses on improving future employability opportunities.

Preparing the future workforce

Maiden Erlegh's strategy is to prepare students for the future workforce and for jobs that may not exist yet. This is executed through a comprehensive yet stimulating careers timetable which includes:

- work experience
- work-related learning
- STEAM provision

The school's annual Careers Fair is hugely successful with over 90 representatives from Higher Education, Apprenticeship Providers and businesses in attendance in 2018. Also, over 650 students have attended one or more careers seminars that were offered, such as 'A career in Cyber Security/Fraud' and 'A career in Construction/Architecture and Quantity Surveying'.

Businesses also supported more practical and curriculum focused activities with Thales, Rapid7 and Kier Construction delivering events for students from all year groups, including a Lego Mindstorm Challenge; People Like Me event for girls; and STEAM days.

Integrating apprenticeships into the careers programme

Making students aware of the different pathways post sixth form is important for the school. To support this ASK (The Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge Company) has worked with Maiden Erlegh to raise the profile of apprenticeships as a viable option for them. ASK has:

- delivered apprenticeship assemblies for students,
- hosted an apprenticeship information evening for parents, and

- delivered Continuing Professional Development opportunities which focus on apprenticeships to staff in school.

Getting students work ready

Work experience is an important feature of the careers programme at Maiden Erlegh. Year 13 students receive advice and guidance relating to university applications, and writing strong personal statements, as well as support with apprenticeships; writing CVs; completing application forms; participating in interviews; and becoming work ready through strengthening employability skills. The students also complete a 30-hour placement that is directly linked to their career aspirations. Students in Year 11 receive a bespoke careers interview to help them to make informed decisions after GCSEs.

Maiden Erlegh is keen to continually improve their careers programme and as part of this have looked at how best to engage students. They have recruited student representatives from across the school to take on the role of Careers Ambassadors, to ensure that the student voice is heard with regards to plans for future career activities.

An award winning programme

Maiden Erlegh has received high recognition for its careers programme. It has been awarded with the Careers & Enterprise Company Certificate for its success in taking part in the national programme that bridges the gap between education and employers. The school also won Most Innovative Education-based Apprenticeship Promotion Initiative award at The Berkshire Apprenticeship Awards 2018.

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