



Maiden Erleigh School NEWSBLAST

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OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & SUCCESS FOR ALL

22 July 2019 - Issue 29

From the Headteacher

As I come to the end of my first academic year I would like to reflect on the many successes that we have had as a school. I am delighted to announce that we are the best non-grammar school in Berkshire according to The Real Schools Guide 2019! This is an incredible achievement, one that I am immensely proud of, and one that would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our students and staff, as well as your support and engagement as parents.

We have also been lucky enough to have a wide variety of trips on offer in recent weeks. Our A Level biology students have just returned from a trip to the Dale Fort Centre in Wales and students from multiple year groups have attended a trip to watch cricket at Lord's. We have also had trips to museums and colleges, a rewards trip to Showcase cinema and our World Challenge team are currently exploring Borneo!

I was hoping to announce the winners of Sports Day in this edition – however it became a little more of a damp affair with an evacuation of students back up to school using two coaches and seven minibuses! I will be using Mr Sutton's weather predictions rather than the Met Office and BBC going forwards! Next year students will be competing in one of our six new houses as we relaunch our house system from September. We are excited to bring the new house system to all aspects of academic and extra-curricular life and hope that all students will actively participate in gaining house points. The houses are Yousafzai, Attenborough, Wilde, Curie, Bolt and Roddick and your child should now have been informed which house they are in.



This half time I have sent home information regarding the ban of using mobile phones in school, having the correct school shoes and equipment from September 2019. I thank you in advance of your support with this and know that this will aid a smooth start to the new academic year and set our expectations at a high level from the beginning.



KEEP CALM IT'S THE END OF TERM

**Students will be dismissed at 12.15pm
on Wednesday 24 July**

School starts on Thursday 5 September

Unfortunately we have to say goodbye to several members of staff who are leaving us for pastures new. They will be missed and we wish them all the best either in their new jobs or in retirement:

Mrs Foster	Miss Dawes	Miss Cross	Mr Neale
Miss Pepper	Miss Davies	Mr Cantor	Miss Davis
Mr Tomsett	Miss Charters	Mrs Sutton	Ms Headley
Mrs Stevens	Mr Stubbs	Mr Raggett	

May I take this opportunity to wish you a restful and enjoyable summer and we look forward to welcoming the students back in September.

Term Dates 2019-2020

Autumn Term 2019

5 September - 25 October 2019

****HALF TERM****

4 November - 20 December 2019

Professional Development Days - (school closed to students)
Monday 18 November 2019

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



Saturday Club

A group of Years 9-11 students from Maiden Erlegh took up the opportunity of attending a free 10 week, Business and Fashion Saturday morning course at Reading College. Here they had the chance to design and create bespoke items of clothing. The course also included some master classes up in London one at The London School of Fashion, here they learnt about 'forecast trending.' The other class gave them the opportunity to watch a live cat walk show and then get creative in putting a style together on a mannequin.

At the end the students were invited to The Institute of Engineering in London to be presented with their certificates and attend an exhibition of their work and students work from across the country at Somerset House.

It has been a great opportunity for students to grow in confidence, creativity and skill set. The college will be running the two courses again next year.

National Business and Fashion Saturday Club

National Art and Design Saturday Club

Saturday-club.org

CAUTION!

Keeping Children Safe from Drowning

Each year children in the UK die or sustain life changing injuries in and around water that could have been prevented. Every year a teenager in Berkshire dies from drowning.

If you are aware that children are accessing a piece of water that is not safe please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact school and we will pass submit an intelligence report to the police on your behalf.

Parenting Programmes for Families Living in Reading



Reading Borough Council has requested that we advertise the following parent's courses that they are offering. These are only available for students/parents that live in the Reading Local Authority and the Heads of Year have the details if you have any further queries.

The courses they are offering are as follows:

- [Teen Positive Parenting Programme](#)
- [Living with Autism](#)
- [Who's in Charge?](#)

Parents who have attended in the past have commented to us about how useful they are and the additional strategies they provide for parenting teenagers.

2020 May Bank Holiday

The early May bank holiday in 2020 will move from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

VE Day marked the end of the war in 1945, on 8 May celebration arrupted across Great Britain as the second world war ended and to enable people to pay tribute to those who served and those who were lost the May bank holiday wil move from 4 May to 8 May for 2020.

We hope that you will take a moment on 8 May to reflect on what this day means and the huge impact this had on the history of Great Britain, changing the course of history for the whole world.



VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 - 10 MAY 2020

Iceland

On Thursday 23 May 40 Year 10 students embarked on an amazing adventure to Iceland, [click here](#) to read a blow by blow account from one of the attending students of this enriching experience.

Careers, Work Experience, Work-Related Learning and STEAM

As we approach the end of another very busy term, we want to share with you the wide variety of opportunities students have had available to them as part of our careers, work experience, work-related and STEAM learning programme at Maiden Erlegh School:

Fragile Freight Challenge at 3M

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Mathematics) club are pleased to announce that following our visit to the 3M group headquarters at the 3M innovation centre in Bracknell to compete in the 'Practical Action - Fragile Freight Challenge' we collected third place for our entry. The competition had an entry of nearly 2000 students from some 17 schools locally with 52 groups entering in various categories. Following a presentation in front of guest judges from various engineering disciplines, the students had to demonstrate their idea and give a five minute presentation and take questions. The judges were very taken how mature the boys presented themselves and were suitably impressed with the concept. The judges commented how high the level of competition had been this year so for a first attempt it was an amazing achievement considering the short time frame we had to design and make it. The level of dedication and application the boys showed meant this was a worthy recognition for their efforts. The aim now is to go one higher and win next year!



#Careers Week 6

During the week commencing Monday 15 July we will be celebrating #Careers Week 6. The purpose of the half termly #Careers Weeks is to give students an opportunity to appreciate and explore the direct link between the different subjects they are studying and the endless career possibilities in these areas. The Careers Ambassadors from each department actively champion the importance of careers and destinations across the curriculum. The theme of week 6 is for students to synthesise and apply their learning from all previous #Careers Weeks to explore their own career aspirations and create a personalised Career Action Plan. Each department also has a careers display to provide students with further information about careers possibilities and what their next steps could be. Please see the link below for more information:

<http://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/page/?title=Celebrating+careers+within+school&pid=217>

Year 7 STEAM Day

On Monday 1 July, students in Year 7 were given an insight into the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Mathematics (STEAM). Thales, Thames Water and The MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (University of Oxford) kindly agreed to host the day collaboratively where students participated in a number of different STEAM-related activities. A range of innovative and interactive activities allowed students to learn about STEAM subjects and potential career pathways. Thales offered students the opportunity to take part in an escape room and a cargo drop. Thames Water delivered a session called 'bin it don't block it' and the University of Oxford worked with students to investigate the workings of the human body. Students were also encouraged to discover the diverse career possibilities in these fields by speaking directly with the representatives from these organisations.

Year 10 Think Ahead Day

On Friday 19 July students took part in a Think Ahead Day which involved expert speakers coming into school and delivering sessions to improve students' employability skills and to prepare students for the working world. As part of the day students took part in a series of interactive and engaging workshops including interview techniques, customer service, working with people, dressing to impress, finance and using figures and diversity & inclusion in the workplace. In the afternoon, students took part in a CV workshop. This included how to write a 'standout' CV, the importance of references and key information about the recruitment and selection process.

Year 12 Future Pathways Day

On Friday 19 July students in Year 12 took part in a Future Pathways Day. The day involved a carousel of talks and presentations from Covea Insurance, Thales, Reading University, Project Trust and tutors. During the day students were given the opportunity to participate in the following activities:

- A Simulated Assessment Centre (delivered by Thales) to show students what an Assessment Centre is, why employers use them and what could happen when they attend one.
- A day in the life of a University Student Session (delivered by Reading University) to explain to students the challenges of University life, a myth busting session and a 'what I wish I knew then' session followed by an opportunity to ask questions to current University students.
- A Making a Gap Year Meaningful Session (delivered by Project Trust) to explain to students the importance of planning and structuring a gap year, the type of gap year experiences on offer, why it is important to make a gap year experience meaningful and the fact that gap years could be spent in lots of different ways.
- A Teambuilding Session (delivered by Covea Insurance) to show students what employability skills employers are looking for and how to enhance their current skills.
- A Personal Statements Session to help students to start thinking about how to plan, structure and what to include in a strong personal statement for University applications.



Igniting Writing Summer Teen Writing Workshops Wokingham Library

Ever wanted to try writing and coming up with your own stories?
Or share your ideas with other aspiring writers? If so, you're in luck - Igniting Writing, Wokingham Library's creative writing club, are running a series of action-packed writing workshops for anyone between 11-18 years old to take part in!

Fanfiction Addiction

Everyone has a series they love getting sucked into, whether it's a book, a TV show, a movie, or something else entirely. If you've ever wanted to explore Hogwarts, or write about Sherlock Holmes in a whole new series of adventures, this workshop is your chance to give it a go and discover an amazing range of stories you can tell with characters and settings you know and love.

Saturday July 27, 10.30am to 3pm

Once Upon a Fairy Tale

Classic fairy tales, like Jack and the Beanstalk and Cinderella, have been retold countless times. But what is it about those stories that make fairy tales so timeless? And how can they be reimagined and written in the modern day? This workshop will focus on the core elements of fairy tale stories, from characters to settings, and give you the chance to create your own fictional fables.

Saturday August 3, 10.30am to 3pm

Both of the workshop sessions will include fun writing exercises, group discussions and some useful tips and tricks to sharpen your writing skills.

There will be a lunch break, so make sure you bring something with you.

£5 charge, per session.

Places must be booked by calling Wokingham Library on 0118 978 1368.



What's on:

More than just books



Teen Sci-Fi Creative Writing Month

-  Saturday 10th August - Building Sci-Fi Settings
-  Saturday 17th August - Exploring Sci-Fi Worlds
-  Saturday 24th August - Creating Sci-Fi Protagonists
-  Saturday 31st August - Plotting Sci-Fi Stories

Bracknell Library 11am-12pm

Bring sci-fi to life with fun writing activities, group discussions and useful tips to sharpen your writing skills. Anyone 11-18 years old is welcome.

Attendance is completely free. Book via Bracknell Library on 01344 423149.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ignitingwriting>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ignitingwriting/>



bracknell-forest.gov.uk/
libraries

We've come a long way since Shhhhh!



Mental Health

We are all aware that the numbers of children presenting with mental health issues has increased enormously in recent years. The reasons for this are complex and varied and there is no simple explanation or fix. In response to this we are in the process of rolling out [MHFA](#) (Mental Health First Aid) training to staff in all Maiden Erlegh Schools. We hope that this will empower staff and provide them with some basic skills by providing them with a framework within which to listen, support, provide information and encourage children and young people.

If you are concerned about your own child [Young Minds](#) is a very useful resource for children, parents and carers.

Below are some sensible basic parenting principles, taken from the website:

- Make sure they know you love them and are proud of them. Even when things are busy or stressful, and it feels like you are in survival mode, a word or a hug can reassure them a huge amount. Praise them for what they do well, and encourage them to try new things.
- Be honest about your feelings - you don't have to be perfect. We all get things wrong and shout or say unkind things from time to time. If this happens, say sorry to your child afterwards and explain why it happened, they will learn from you that it's OK to make mistakes and that it doesn't make you a bad person.
- Be clear about what is and isn't acceptable - and tell them why. Children need to know what is OK and what isn't, and what will happen if they cross the line. Follow through on what you say as otherwise they may get confused or stop respecting the boundaries.
- Own your own role - you are the parent, so don't be afraid to take tough decisions. If your child sees you are scared of their reaction and always give in to them, it can make them feel very powerful, which can be frightening. Children need to know that you are there to keep them safe.



Mrs Tunley-Jones has been working on a mural to welcome people to the Performing Arts department and it has an instant impact.



On June 19 66 students from year 7 and 8 went to London to watch *The Lion King* at the Lyceum Theatre in London. All of the students were selected to go on the trip as they had been nominated for their excellent attainment and effort in both music and drama lessons. The students were enthralled from the beginning and really enjoyed the show. The puppetry and special effects were breathtaking. The students were accompanied by Mrs Burbage, Miss Pitman, Mrs Bhadye, Mr Jones, Mr Raggett and Mr Bell.

Year 10 Field Trip

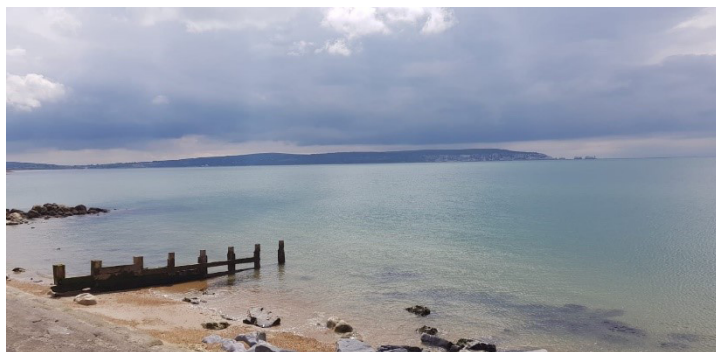
During June, our Year 10 Geographers headed out on field trips to the New Forest. This was a great opportunity for them to complete human and physical fieldwork to relate some of the topics we've covered in the classroom to real experiences in the field, which they'll be tested on in Paper 3 of their GCSE.

First stop was the town of Lyndhurst in the New Forest. Their aim was to investigate the impact that tourism is having on the town. Students spoke to local residents and investigated whether tourists were boosting the local economy and having a negative impact on the environment. It turns out that 50% of residents were happy with the tourists visiting and the many restaurants and tearooms benefit from the visitors, although they do cause a lot of traffic!



We then headed down to the coast to Milford-on-Sea. Some groups had beautiful sunshine, others had to brave the wind and the rain. We were looking at how effective the coastal management, such as groynes, sea walls and rock armour, are at protecting against erosion. It was a great chance to see some of these strategies in use and longshore drift in action, as well as spotting Hurst Spit and even the Needles over on the Isle of Wight.

Well done Year 10! You did some fantastic geography out in the field.



Geographer of the Half Term

Congratulations to the following students who won geographer of half term.

Geographer of the half term 5:

Year 7

Grace K
Harry V
Jessica S

Year 8

Akshay K
Mohamed R
Sabiya M

Year 9

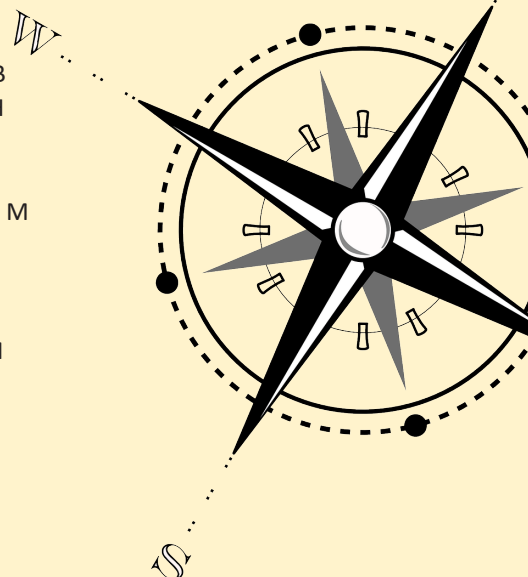
Aneesh S
Anna B
Lucy R

Year 10

Adedeji B
George H
Jennie N
Rudi N
Supratha M

Year 12

Charlie A
Rachel M



CResCent Resource Centre have some fantastic courses available this summer:

**Intro to British Values
Let's Talk English
Confidence Building
Start Computing
Discover the Cloud
And many more!**



Click here to view further information

Work of Art

Artists of the Month

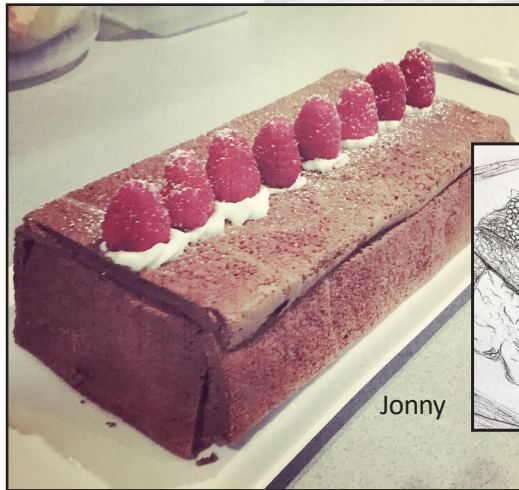
Congratulations to Ollie (Y8), Isobel (Y9) and Jonny (Y10) for being awarded 'Artist of the Month' for June.



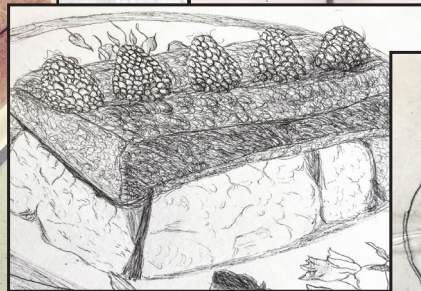
Ollie



Isobel



Jonny



Aldryngton Workshop

A group of Year 12 Art students led a workshop at Aldryngton Primary School with 90 KS1 pupils in July. They discussed the work of land artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Kathy Klein and Robert Smithson and then took the pupils outside to create their own land art pieces using sticks, stones, leaves and petals.

The students demonstrated some excellent teaching skills as well as showing that they were able to be flexible and think on

their feet in response to the Year 1 & 2 pupils' questions! A great afternoon of learning took place and one little boy said as they were leaving 'We will never forget you, can you come back tomorrow?'

Many thanks to Anna K, Atiya Q, Bethany A, Emma J, Jasandeep B, Jenny S, Matthew K, Sophie C, Teba A-O and William T for leading this fabulous workshop.





health apps library



Did you know that the NHS has a directory of approved apps on their website covering all aspects of health?

There are apps to support people which relate to all manner of conditions from cancer, diabetes and dental care to healthy eating, mental health and mindfulness. Each app is assessed against strict criteria and those published have been approved as safe and secure by the NHS.

These apps might be useful to you, someone you know or in support of your child if they are struggling to manage feelings of anxiety or low mood.

<https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/>



MindEd for Families

MindEd is a free educational, safe and reliable advice about children's and young people's mental health, created by experts and parents together.

It covers common problems; easy read documents; advice & information on issues like bullying; refusal to go to school; talking to my child; building confidence and resilience, to mention a few.

It is easy to navigate. Give it a try!

<https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/young-people>

Corpus Christi College Trip

On Monday, the Gold Programme students (along with Mr Newton, Miss Bateman and Miss Reynolds) went on a trip to Cambridge, to find out about what life is like as a student at one of the oldest universities in the UK, and get an idea of different places we might want to study in the future.



The day started off with an overview and discussion of student life and learning at Cambridge, followed by a guided tour of Corpus Christi College and the surrounds led by two current students. This took us around key college landmarks including the chapel, library and social spaces, ending back in the lecture theatre for a Q&A. After lunch, a history professor gave us a short talk which despite a water bottle incident, ran smoothly, let us experience what a lecture is like and ask questions. Finally, despite the rain, we had some free time to explore Cambridge and catch a glimpse of the town before heading home on the coach.



The best thing you'll do this week (and that's a promise.)

Want to try something new, learn new skills and meet a whole new group of friends? Explore and achieve with the Scouts and the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Each week we help young people enjoy fun and adventure while developing skills for life.

Explorer Scouts welcome, boys and girls, age 14-18.

Why not come along to find out more... Join us on the Wednesday 11th September, 7pm - 9pm at Aldryington School, Silverdale Road, Earley, RG6 7HR. Any questions please contact Kim Williams - kim.williams@berkshirescouts.org.uk Register: <http://bit.ly/Explorersevent>



scouts.org.uk/join

#SkillsForLife

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WHAT IS LIFE LIKE AS A BUDDHIST TODAY?

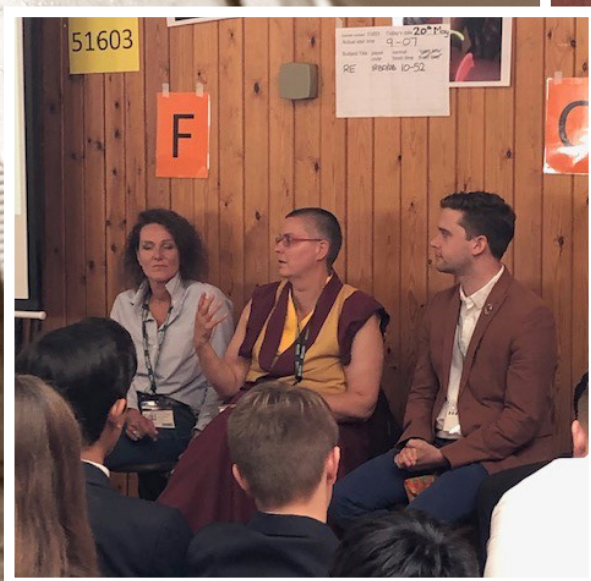
On Thursday 6 June, five Buddhist practitioners from three different Buddhist traditions joined Year 8 for a talk, alongside a question and answer session. We had the pleasure of listening to Heide from Diamond Way Buddhist Group, Gen Kelsang Nyngpo from the Kadampa Meditation Centre and Scott, Robert and Gabby from Buddhism in Action for Peace (SGI).

The students found out how each individual discovered Buddhism, what caused them to become a Buddhist and what the most important Buddhist teaching is for them. It was lovely to hear the similarities and differences between the different answers. Then we discussed the different practices of Buddhism. We discussed the internal and breathing-focused meditation from Heide and Gen Kelsang Nyngpo, alongside the vocal practice of the SGI chanting of mantras. We even had the pleasure of experiencing the daily ceremony of Gongyo, which SGI practice, where they chant the Buddhist mantra Nam Myoho Renge Kyo, to reinforce the importance of the Buddhist scripture the Lotus Sutra, as well as follow in the footsteps of their tradition's founder, Nichiren.

The visitors were asked about how their Buddhist beliefs influence their careers. Heide explained that Buddhism gave her the confidence and self-belief to go into further education, after moving from a small village in Germany to the big city of London. Gabby indicated Buddhism enhanced her creative side, supporting her role as a journalist. Finally, Robert told us that Buddhism gave him the insight needed to be an effective and confident Barrister. All the Buddhist speakers seemed to agree that Buddhism ensured they had good intentions during their actions at work.

Then students were given a chance to ask their own questions. Students asked insightful questions such as is Buddhism a religion or a Philosophy, why do Buddhist nuns shave their hair, are some traditions in Buddhism more true to the teachings of Buddha than others and why do Buddhists want to achieve a state of being awakened?

On behalf of Year 8, I would like to thank all the Buddhist visitors for their time and for teaching us all something new!



Asdan Enrichment

Members of the ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness course visited Maiden Erlegh Lake on Thursday 6 June. This enabled them to work towards their Environment and Sport & Leisure Modules.

They were given a talk about birds by Mr Ray Reedman, a member of Berkshire Ornithology Club. He explained about bird watching and pointed out the different types of birds. The students used binoculars and a telescope to view the wildlife. The students then noted down different types of birds on a tally chart and wrote up a report about their visit.



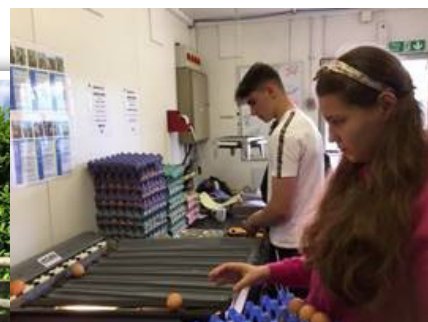
On Friday 21 June 2019, Year 9 ASDAN students visited Riverways Farm in Twyford. Some of the Year 12 ASDAN assistants in class accompanied the group. Students were given a tour of the farm, completed a quiz learning about the different animals kept at the farm and how they were looked after.

Students were given a talk about reindeer and learned different facts about reindeers and their antlers.

Students had an opportunity to feed the animals.

At the end of the visit they collected eggs to take home.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the visit. A big thank you to Jake Mosley, who works at the farm, for helping organise the trip.



Charity Event Organised by NCS

NCS have partnered with the charity Help For Heroes. The charity aims to help war veterans and their families both mentally and psychologically. They are in desperate need of your donations as they have seen a dramatic decline in donations in the last 4 years. To raise money, awareness and gain more volunteers for Help For Heroes they have organised a fun day on the 23rd of July at Kings Meadows in Reading town, this will include sports activities, food and just a fun day out for the family. For any extra information contact their Instagram page:

[@4evergreen_teamreiss](https://www.instagram.com/4evergreen_teamreiss)

Request for Donations

If you are having a clear out over the Summer Holidays, please could you consider donating any of the following items for use by our Special Educational Needs Department. The more we have the better!

Please bring any items to the school reception labelled for the attention of Miss R Overett – if there is no-one around when you come please leave donations on the sofas in reception from where they will be collected.

- Primary style educational resources – mini whiteboards, pretend money, clocks
- Easy reading books
- Easy information books e.g. volcanos, ancient Egypt
- Puzzles, board games
- Building toys – lego, mechano, jenga etc
- Arts and crafts materials/ supplies
- Sensory toys e.g. fidget spinners, bouncy ball
- 'role play' type toys – small figures, puppets, plastic food, toy cars

Veterinary Presentation and Workshop

Students were invited to attend a presentation by Daniel Gillett, 4th Year BVMSci, University of Surrey. He then led them through a post mortem style dissection, which they performed themselves.

They were thoroughly engaged and enthralled and, as you can see, they got fully involved in the practical work.

A big thank you to Daniel Gillett for giving up his time and giving the students a very memorable experience.



Dioramas and Shakespeare

This summer term we have been studying Shakespeare and his well-known play 'A Midsummer Nights Dream', which, as you might know, has a confusing storyline. Not only have we been studying the play, but we have also been taking scenes and re-enacting them as a class. We've also been learning about the Elizabethan views on society and how they have been linked to the story. Since this play is about magic and fairies, we had also been creating our own mythical creatures, some magic and sparkly and some not so much!

In addition to all this, we have also been analysing Shakespeare's language and structure and how different emotions are depicted in the play.

We recently completed dioramas, also known as a shoebox project, which was a two week homework. The homework was that we had to create a scene from the play to present to the class. My diorama was inspired by the last scene of the play which was the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta. Almost the whole project is made of Lego and I got my inspiration when we were dramatizing scenes in class. We all brought our projects into school and voted for the ones we liked best and were the most creative. Learning about this play has been so much fun! We can't wait to see what we're learning about next!

Written by Najdah G – Year 8



Huge thanks to our Staff Oscars supporters and the generous prizes they provided.



**Henry Street
Garden Centre**



Kendall's Castles



SONNING GOLF CLUB



**PHILIP DENNIS
FOODSERVICE**
Feeding your passion

DWE Legg & Son

Spare Uniform

Over the summer holidays lots of you will be replacing uniform that has been outgrown. If you have uniform that is in good condition but is surplus to requirements we would be very pleased to receive it to use as spares at school. Please hand any clean unwanted uniform to reception.

Term Dates 2019-2020

Autumn Term 2019

5 September - 25 October 2019

****HALF TERM****

4 November - 20 December 2019

Professional Development Days -
(school closed to students)
Monday 18 November 2019

Spring Term 2020

6 January - 14 February 2020

****HALF TERM****

24 February - 3 April 2020

Professional Development Days -
(school closed to students)
Wednesday 29 January 2020

Summer Term 2020

20 April - 22 May 2020
(Bank Holiday 8 May 2020)

****HALF TERM****

1 June - 21 July 2020

Professional Development Days -
(school closed to students)
Thursday 2 July 2020

FACILITIES HIRE



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

PE Department

Click here to view our latest Sports Bulletin



Letters for Parents

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



ParentPay