



# Maiden Erlegh School

## NEWSBLAST

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OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & SUCCESS FOR ALL

26 May 2017 - Issue 7

### From the Headteacher



Over the past couple of weeks I have said good-bye to Year 11 and Year 13. Although it is not really good-bye at all, because the students are in school revising and taking their examinations.

Year 11 have started their examinations and their examinations preparation programme. I have to commend them on their approach and attitude which have been excellent. That does not surprise me as they are such a wonderful year group, but it is a testament to their maturity and their serious mindedness that they have made such a great start.

Year 13 are a group of wonderful young adults. Their legacy goes well beyond Years 12 and 13: from developing cohesion in the sixth form, running many fund raising events, organising social events, working with the school on equality education and provision and much more. They are great company and, listening to their plans for September and beyond, they are going to make their mark in the world in so many different ways.

We wish them all the best for their examinations and onwards but please remind them .... RTQ\*!  
(\*read the question)

  
**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
READ THE  
QUESTION**

### School Budgets

As you know school funding is in dire straits and, like every other school, we are constantly reviewing budgets to find ways to do more with less. Our priority will always be to maintain our standards for your children and to this end we need your help.

We want to run some fund raising events but need groups of parents to take them on.

*Do you have experience running a quiz or a car boot sale or anything of that ilk? Would you do just one for us?*

The money would primarily go to support upgrading our IT provision in the first instance.

*Also - do you work with or know people who would be willing to sponsor parts of our IT or science provision in school?*

[Click here to view the Fair Fundraising for all Schools General Election Parent's Briefing.](#)

### CALENDAR

29 May-2 June	Half Term
8-11 June	Y9 Cologne, Germany - Business Studies
9 & 12 June	GCSE Art Exhibition
20 June	Y9 Bank of England - Economics
23 June	Y8 & Y12 Roche Court - Art
23 June	Y7 Tirabad

### Community

**COMMUNITY**

We often receive compliments about our students, your children, and how they behave in the community and this is as it should be. They are fantastic young people. The staff at the newly opened Tesco's have been very pleased with the students' behaviour and made a point of telling us.

We have, however, received comments that a small number are getting it wrong vis-à-vis members of the public – usually unintentionally caused by a lack of awareness of what is going on around them when they are with their friends. Please would you to remind your child to be aware of where they are and where they are walking, to let people past and not congregate in the parking areas outside shops. We also ask that they use appropriate language. Some students have been swearing and this does offend passers-by who hear it.

Thank you for your support

### GCSE Wellbeing Guides

Please find below a link to three useful guides to wellbeing during GCSEs for young people and for parents:

[www.cwmt.org.uk/resources](http://www.cwmt.org.uk/resources)



*Raising awareness*

*fighting depression*

### KEEPING US INFORMED

Please can you keep us informed of any changes in the health of your children and any changes in contact numbers/emails/addresses.

Having up to date information is essential to ensuring we can provide for the students in the best way.

## Performing Arts



On Thursday 30 March the first Maiden Erlegh Performing Arts Showcase took place. The Showcase involved pupils from Years 7-13 and featured performances of music, dance and drama.

The performances included a variety of music from around the world. From the string group's performance of Jai Ho to the Haka, which was performed by a group of boys in Year 8. The drama club performed a version of the well-known fairy tale Goldilocks.

As well as larger ensemble's there were two solo performances. Anushri Ghosh in Year 8 performed a piano solo and Daniel Raggett in Year 13 performed a saxophone solo accompanied by his Dad. This was Daniel's last concert and the music department used this opportunity to thank him for all of his hard work and dedication throughout his seven years in the department. Daniel has been an important member of the music department and has both led and featured in musical ensembles. Teagan Bendall and Alisha Bartlett in Year 7 showcased the gymnastic routine that they performed at the World Championships in Bulgaria and Korea.



It was an outstanding evening of entertainment from across the three departments and all of the performers should be very proud of their performances.



## Keeping It Schtum!



Connor Bartenbach in Year 10 took part in a sponsored silenced for a whole day.

He raised £76.65 for The Wolf Conservation Trust.

**Well Done!**

## Codecademy



The Computer Science Department would like to congratulate our Year 9 Computer Science students who have accomplished great progress on Codecademy improving their programming skills in Python in their own time outside of school and over the last term.

We wish to congratulate:

### 9A students

Nikhil P.	Ben S.
Zainab M.	Lewis D.
Josh B.	Safa A.
Erin P.	Usman J.
Nicole B.	

### 9B students

Hitesh P.	Oliver S.
Sam A.	Max I.
Adil O.	Haris Q.

Well done for your great effort, hard work and achievements on Codecademy improving your Python coding skills.

## Sports Personality - Student Feature Challenge



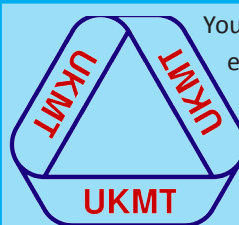
Miss Chapman and Mr Bryant will be filming the student feature challenge for Sports Personality in the first week after half term.

Year 7 & 8 students will need to be in their PE kit on Thursday 8 June, whilst Years 9 upwards will be on Friday 9 June. Monday 12 June will be a mop up day.

This year it will be 'dizzy penalties'. If you have any questions, speak to anyone in PE. We hope to see lots of you involved!



## UKMT Maths Challenge Further Success



You might recall that we had an exceptional number of students getting to the next round of the Maths Challenge and the students did themselves proud.

Kirsty Ward Year 11, achieved a Merit in the Pink Kangaroo challenge, John Li Year 9 achieved a Merit in the Grey Kangaroo and Adil Omar-Mufti Year 9 achieved a Merit in the even more prestigious 2017 IMOK Olympiad.

## Rob Wilson MP Visits Maiden Erlegh

Rob Wilson met with some of the Sixth Form on Friday 19 May to answer some of their questions prior to the upcoming election.



A range of questions were asked covering issues such as the provision of disabled access to Reading station, safety and security in the town centre and what support and encouragement is being offered to engage young people in politics.

The students presented themselves with great maturity and were a credit to both themselves and the school.

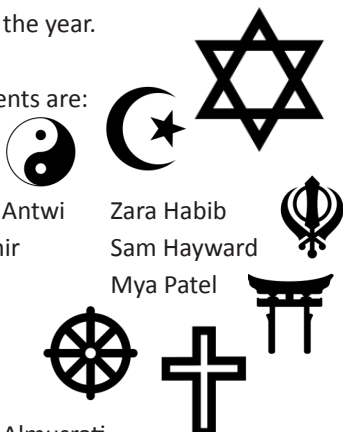
## Praise for Religious Studies Students

Teachers of Years 7 and 8 have nominated students for praise this half term. These students have demonstrated an outstanding level of effort through the quality of their work and earnest enquiry into questions around religious beliefs. Many have also shown resilience by making significant improvements in their levels despite facing challenges earlier in the year.

The students are:

### Year 7

Christian Antwi  
Zara Bashir  
Tom Ford



Zara Habib  
Sam Hayward  
Mya Patel

### Year 8

Juhainah Almusrati  
Zoe Green  
Katie Jackman  
Chloe Jessup  
Ed Sumner  
James West  
Luke Worsley

## Quirks' Animal Roadshow - Yikes!

This term Year 7 students at Maiden Erlegh School have been studying tropical rainforests and how life has adapted to survive there. As part of this the students were visited by Luke Quirk from Quirks' Animal Roadshow. He introduced the students to the different animals found in each of the layers of the rainforest. These included White's tree frog found in the canopy; a Chinese water dragon found in the under canopy; and tarantulas and scorpions found on the forest floor. The students were excited to see how the animals moved around the rainforest and curious to learn how they hid from predators and hunted for their prey. The highlight of the show was meeting Mya the 8ft Burmese Python, who was a bit of a surprise to some students.



This was an incredibly valuable experience for students as it helped to reinforce the knowledge they have acquired in lessons. It also allowed them to have a deeper understanding of how animals have become adapted to their environment. This was an excellent opportunity which all the Year 7 students enjoyed. To find out more about the roadshow visit Luke's site:

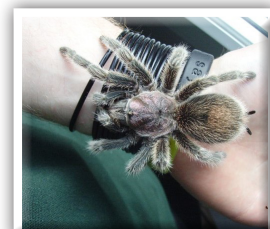
[www.quirksanimalroadshows.co.uk](http://www.quirksanimalroadshows.co.uk).



Here's how one of our students described the visit:

*'On Thursday Quirks' Animal Road Show came to our geography lesson to show us lots of rainforest animals. They brought bird-eating tarantulas, scorpions, frogs, snails, a Chinese water dragon and a huge snake that was bigger than an adult and wasn't even fully grown yet! As he brought them round he told us facts about the animal, like their habitat, diet and personality. Overall I really enjoyed seeing the animals, especially the snake'.*

Lauren (Year 7)



## Upcoming Courses at The Crescent Learning Centre

The Crescent Learning Centre have the following courses coming up which may be of some interest, click on the workshop title for further information.

[Be Safe with Internet and Email](#)

[Keeping Safe on Social Media](#)

[Introduction to using your Apple iPad](#)

[Introduction to using an Android Tablet](#)

## World Transplant Games - Grab Life with Both Handlebars!

We would like to say a huge congratulations to Luke Alexander, one of our sixth form students who has been selected to represent Great Britain at the World Transplant Games held in Malaga, Spain in June.

Diagnosed with a rare and serious liver condition at just 10 weeks old and having a life-changing liver transplant at 12 years old this teenager is an inspiration.

Luke will join 200 transplant athletes who have undergone similar surgeries to make up Team Great Britain and Northern Ireland, competing against over 1000 athletes from 70 countries in 17 different sporting events.



Luke will be competing for his country in a 5km cycling time trial. He has done amazingly well to achieve this and should be very proud of himself.

Luke says:

"I am determined to do my best and hope to make everyone really proud when I compete at the World Transplant Games this year.

I am forever grateful to my donor and all the donor families for making that incredible life-saving decision at a traumatic time".

We are very proud of you Luke and wish you and all the team the very best at the games and look forward to hearing all about it when you return.

For further information on the World Transplant Games visit: [www.transplantsport.org.uk](http://www.transplantsport.org.uk).

To join the NHS Organ Donor Register go to: [www.organdonation.nhs.uk](http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk).



Luke, second left in the front row, with the other athletes in the GB team

The games are the largest international organ donor awareness event, held every 2 years and supported by the International Olympic Committee.



## History Club's Public Speaking Challenge!

On Tuesday 9 May, Maiden Erlegh History Club staged a public speaking challenge on the topic of historical heroes and villains. The historians were challenged to prepare speeches of up to three minutes, in which they must convince their audience that their chosen individuals were indeed the most heroic or villainous.

The students succeeded in giving a range of interesting and persuasive speeches on heroes as diverse as Julius Caesar and David Cameron and villains as wideranging as Stalin and Winston Churchill.

All students should be congratulated not only for their courage in making

speeches in front of their peers, but for their ability to state a clear line of argument and support their views with evidence.



A special mention must go to Nirbhay Kaul (Year 7), whose thoroughly researched speeches were particularly convincing.



Following the impressive speeches, the floor was opened up to a wider discussion about whether it is possible to compare heroes from different time periods with each other. This initial question led to some very thoughtful comments about the importance of considering the context in which the individual lived and the difficulty in judging the short and long term impact of an individual and their actions.

**Well done to all involved!**

History Club meets every Tuesday in H1 from 3-3.45pm. New members are always welcome.

### Information for Parents of Year 7 Students

Students in Year 7 studying either French or Spanish will continue to study the same language in Year 8. These students will remain with a single language which will enable them to embed the grammar and vocabulary and master the skills necessary to ensure success at this language should it be chosen as an Option for KS4.

Students will be able to start a new language in Year 9 as an Option, if they wish, either as their single language or as a second language in addition to the language they have started in Year 7.

### Summer Reading Challenge

Wokingham Borough Council are looking for 16-24 year olds who can encourage children to take part in and complete this year's Summer Reading Challenge, The Big Friendly Read and help out with children's activities in the library.

[Click here to view further information.](#)



### Work of Art

Artists of the Month - May

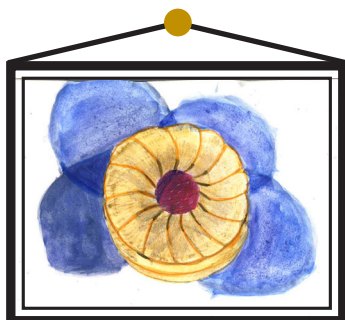
Congratulations to the following students for being awarded Artist of the Month for May. Do come and see their work in the art department after school hours.

Year 7 Iniat Ahmed, Imogen Ambaum, Ester Ferreira and Carrie Whalley

Year 10 Emma Jones, Danyaal Mohammed, Leon Norris and Yingze Zhu



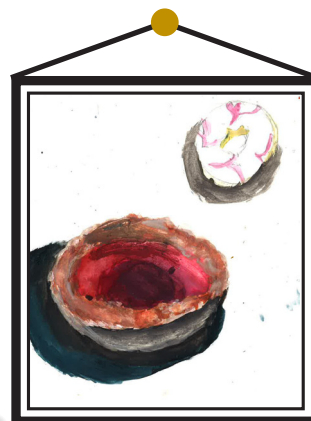
Iniat Ahmed



Ester Ferreira



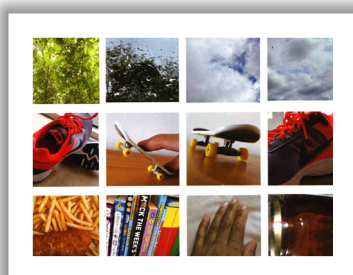
Imogen Ambaum



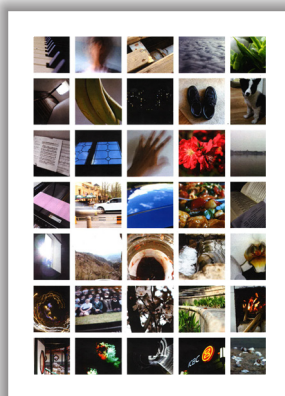
Carrie Whalley



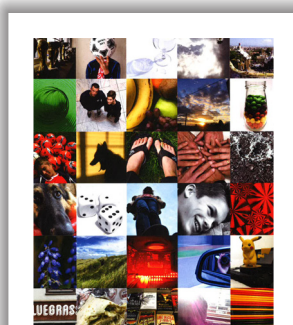
Emma Jones



Danyaal Mohammed



Yingze Zhu



Leon Norris

### 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

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