



Maiden Erleigh School

NEWSBLAST



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OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & SUCCESS FOR ALL

15 September 2017 - Issue 10

From the Headteacher



Welcome back! I sincerely hope you had the summer break that you were looking forward to. Some of the students have been telling me about the exciting places they have been and things they have done. I am quite envious!

We welcome back our students from their World Challenge expedition in Costa Rica and thank the staff who gave up part of their holiday to accompany them.



We also extend a warm welcome to our new staff who have settled in extremely well to the "Maiden Erleigh Way".

I am delighted with the start we have made to the new academic year. The sixth formers (and many staff) are enjoying the new Common Room.



It was important to me that students had a more adult space, in recognition of their status in the school. The roll out of their new lanyards, and soon swipe ID cards, is going well– even if our choice of colour for the lanyard is not a universal favourite.

Our new students in Year 7 have made an impressive start also. They have found their way around the site quickly and are participating very well in lessons. I know they are already signing up for clubs and activities in their droves. I have also been delighted by the support of my Headteacher's Challenge.

Finally, we have some students who have joined us from other schools in other years. You are very welcome and well done on settling in so quickly.

As a staff we have already spent a great deal of time planning this year and learning from our experiences of the new specifications in the summer exams. I must, once again, congratulate all the students and staff for the tremendous performance in the summer examinations. All of our understanding about new courses tell us that, to do well, the students need to go beyond merely doing what the teacher tells them to do. This is just the starting point. It is the students who can apply their learning and especially those who show intellectual curiosity who do best.

CALENDAR

19 September	Open Morning 9-11am
19 September	Year 12 - 'The Year Ahead' Meeting
20 September	School Photos
20 September	Year 13 - 'The Year Ahead' Meeting
21 September	Open Morning 9-11am
21 September	Year 7 Parents Induction Evening
21 September	Year 9 National Theatre & Woman in Black - Drama
25 September	Open Morning 9-11am
26 September	Open Morning 9-11am
26 September	European Day of Language
27 September	School Photos
27 September	National Poetry Day
27 September	Year 11 Information Evening & Post 16
29 September	Year 10 Artists Workshops
3 October	Year 9&10 Gold Programme Launch Evening
3 October	Year 10 Jekyll and Hyde (Haymarket Theatre) - Drama
4 October	Year 9 Information Evening
5 October	Year 7 Silver Programme Launch Evening
6 October	Year 9-10 Lippstadt German Trip
6 October	MES Parents Association AGM
7 October	Year 7 Thorpe Park
11 October	Year 10 Information Evening
12 October	6th Form Open Evening
12 October	Year 12&13 People, Places, Things (Oxford Playhouse) - Drama
13 October	Non-uniform Day
13 October	Year 7 Maths Puzzle Day

They explore the subjects beyond the classroom through a range of media eg:

- reading around the subject
- watching relevant TV programmes, TED Talks or Youtube stations
- listening to podcasts
- using MOOCs (eg: <https://www.futurelearn.com>)

They can then cope with more complex problem solving and with "curve ball" questions – but also they often find the more varied content more interesting and can give it a relevance in the outside world. And, dare I say it, the subject matter becomes more fun.

Parents often ask us "how can I help my child" – why not steer them to these types of activities as a starting point?

I am looking forward to another great year and to seeing the students' achievements as time goes by.

Mary Davies

Visit Our New Website

We are very excited to introduce our new website, bringing all things Maiden Erlegh together and celebrating our schools successes and achievements.

Designed to provide the absolute user-friendly experience with enhanced navigation and functionality throughout, enabling you and your children to access school information easily. Created entirely with the users in mind, our website has been designed using the latest technology to enable the site to be compatible with current browsers and mobile devices.

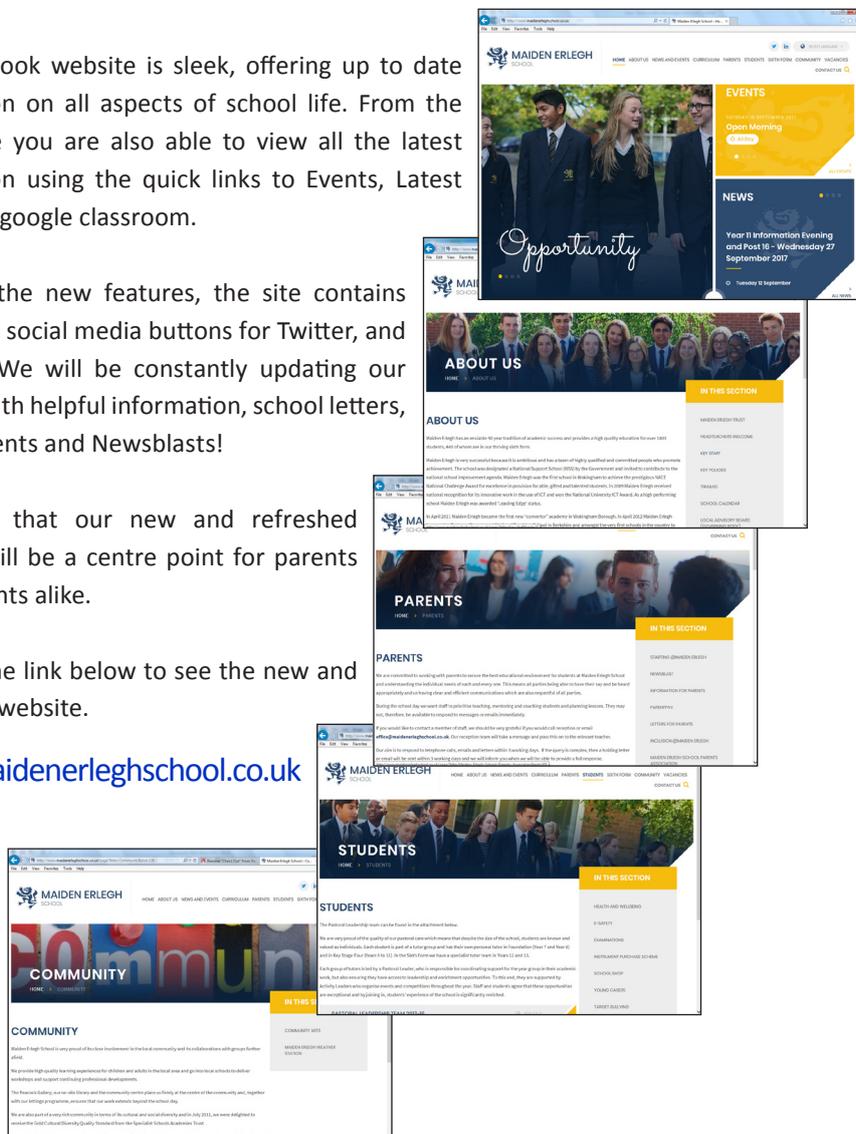
The new look website is sleek, offering up to date information on all aspects of school life. From the homepage you are also able to view all the latest information using the quick links to Events, Latest News and google classroom.

Amongst the new features, the site contains integrated social media buttons for Twitter, and LinkedIn. We will be constantly updating our content with helpful information, school letters, achievements and Newsblasts!

We hope that our new and refreshed website will be a centre point for parents and students alike.

Click on the link below to see the new and improved website.

www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk



If you have any queries with regards to the new website or problems viewing any of our pages or attached documents please contact us at office@maidenerleghschool.co.uk.

Headteacher's Challenge

Thank you to all the Year 7 students who have submitted items for the Headteacher's Challenge. I look forward to reading and watching them all.



Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 13 October we will be holding a non-uniform day. The purpose of this day is to raise money to update access to IT in lessons by replacing current minibook trollies.

The suggested donation is £1 however please feel free to donate more if you wish. Donations will be collected in tutor group and collection boxes will also be in the dining halls and bistro.

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.

Follow our Spanish Faculty on twitter for...
updates from the Spanish department
revision techniques
key sentences
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Come to our OPEN EVENING
Thursday 12 October 2017 • 7pm - 8.30pm

Maiden Erlegh School Sixth Form

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Rivers of the World Project

A number of Year 8 students took part in producing a piece of artwork as part of the Rivers of the World project last term. Our school has been partnered with one in Nepal and the work from all the schools and countries involved is currently being displayed along the South Bank and outside City Hall as part of the Thames River Festival, in conjunction with the British Council, until Saturday 30 September. Do search ours out if you are able to get to London this month.

Alternatively, the 6 Reading and Nepali schools work will be displayed at the Weller Centre in Lower Caversham until Sunday 17 September as part of the new Reading on Thames Festival! We are also hoping to exhibit the art work in school in the coming weeks.

rivers of the world

a thames festival project



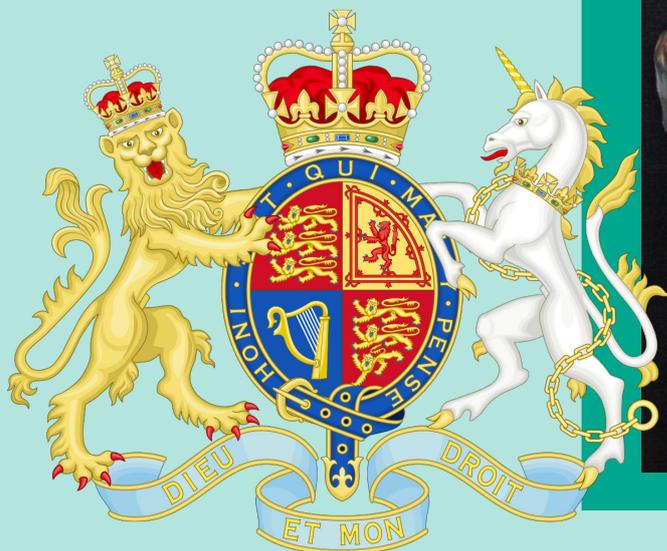
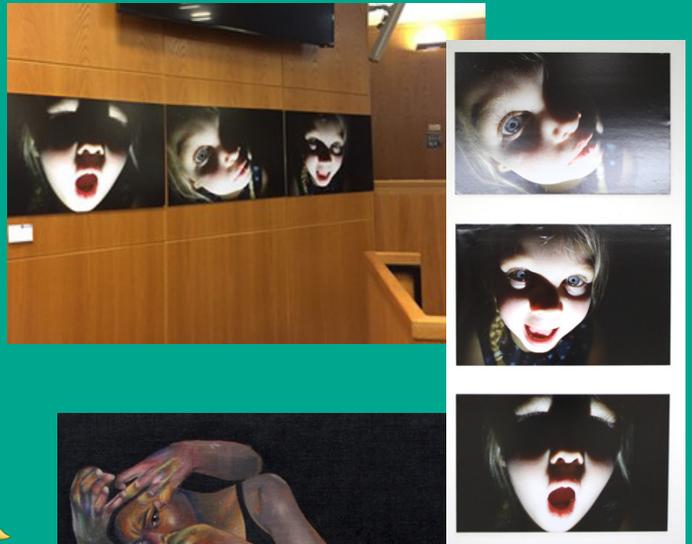
Reading Crown Courts Open Day Art Competition

On Saturday 9 September Niamh Quelch and Iqra Zamir both in Year 13 received special awards given to them by Judge Morris in an Art competition at Reading Crown Court Open Day entitled "The Rule of Law".

They have both received a £50.00 gift voucher; Niamh for her photography Triptych of her sister and Iqra for her very detailed painting in a portrait.

Niamh's photography looked particularly striking in Court 6 just as if it was part of a court hearing of a child's case. Iqra's figurative painting is exquisitely painted down to the last realistic detail.

Lewis Taylor, Amrit Manku and Martha Harris-Steers all in Year 13 exhibited high quality work on the theme and received certificates of participation too.





Enjoying the waterfall in La Fortuna.

Last summer four teams from our school travelled to Costa Rica to spend a month exploring the country's culture and stunning scenery. The trip began in the country's capital, San Jose, where the teams discovered what the city had to offer and organised activities for the remainder of trip. Not long after, we made the journey to La Fortuna. Here we looked at the town's beautiful waterfalls and camped with an extraordinary view of a volcano all while enjoying the campsite's hot springs. The challengers even had to face a thunderstorm with intense thunder and lightning that no one had ever experienced before. We had to save a few tents that night! After our time in La Fortuna, we stayed in Monteverde. Here we did some short treks looking at the country's magnificent landscape and wildlife. Not only this but, we also received a birds eye view by conquering one of the country's highest zip lines. It definitely got our adrenaline pumping!

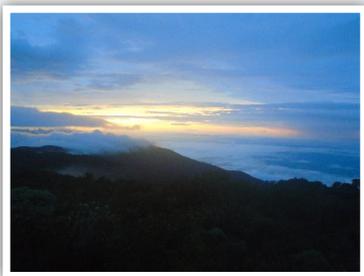
The excitement continued when we spent a week on our project carrying out turtle conservation in the coastal town of Ostional. Where we were greeted by our exceedingly hospitable hosts Gilbert (a.k.a. Don) and Maria who welcomed us into their home and community. The

team were extremely privileged to see five-hundred (!!) baby turtles hatch from their nests and guide them to the sea every morning as well as being able to see the adult turtles laying their eggs every night. During the day we planted trees and cleared the beach to provide space and shade for the turtles to make their nests. After this, the challengers had the opportunity to meet and play with the local children which gave them an insight into their lifestyle. We even had the chance to try a local delicacy which was a combination of raw turtle egg and sweet chilli sauce. Some of our challengers enjoyed this more than others!



Baby turtle making its way to the sea in Ostional.

We were sad to leave the project however now was the time for our big trek! We made the journey to San Jeronimo where we packed our big rucksacks ready to climb 3126m up Mt. Cerro Ena. This was one of the most challenging parts of the whole trip. However sitting on the mountain's summit to see the sunrise in the morning was a great reward for all our efforts. We were then glad after spending time in the freezing cold mountains to travel to our rest and relaxation location in Puerto Viejo. Here we were able to see even more wildlife and to experience the warm, clear, Caribbean Sea. It was like paradise!



View from Mt. Cerro Ena.



At the summit.



Caribbean coast in Puerto Viejo.

Our trip sadly reached its end. However all the challengers had the most amazing time and experience. We all learnt so many new things, gained so many new skills and gained new friends and lasting memories.

I would also like to thank all the challengers, teachers and team leaders on the trip that made this a fun, happy and enjoyable experience.

Written by Marianna Bak 13M5

PE Department

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www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/letters-for-parents/
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