



****Over the Half Term break please report positive COVID-19 cases to mescovidalert@maidenerleghtrust.org****

12 February 2021 - Issue 36

From the Headteacher

As we come to the end of another half term I wanted to say how incredibly proud I am of #TeamMaidenErlegh. Our students have shown such resilience and fortitude over the last half term when plans changed at the very last minute and they could no longer return to school. We cannot wait to have all of our students through our gates again. We will write to you as soon as we know when this will be.

Live lessons have been ongoing throughout the half term and I would like to thank staff for turning to this method of working instantly and providing high quality learning opportunities throughout. The students have also adapted incredibly well to this style of learning again and I have seen some fantastic evidence of engagement and high quality work.

There are still many unknowns and my heart goes out to those who were due to sit examinations in the summer. I am hoping that there will be much more clarity given in the week after half term when OfQUAL announce their plans following the consultation. I am also aware that other year groups have their own challenges, Year 7 have only just started in school before it being taken away, Year 8 have their options to choose and Year 9 have just started their GCSE courses. Year 10 and 12 also have the added pressure of knowing what they learn now will be needed in examinations next year. I want to make this clear now, WE HAVE GOT YOU, no matter what happens and however many changes occur, we will look after you every single step of the way.

This half term our students have thrown themselves whole heartedly into a number of challenges. Weekly PE wellbeing activities have seen a huge number of students get involved in a number of activities, as well as getting the whole family involved. We celebrated Children’s Mental Health Week with a House mindfulness challenge and it has been great to see so many entries on Google Classroom. This week our Bull Run competition is also launching. We hope that students get involved in this unique and exciting opportunity to create a virtual financial portfolio.

Our Virtual Careers Fair went live last week. Well done to those students who have already engaged with the material. Lots of fantastic resources have been made available on our website. If you have not done so already, please do check them out here.

A reminder to Year 8 that the information surrounding Key Stage 4 Options has been sent out. Please look over

CALENDAR

12 February	Student finish for Half Term break
15-19 February	Half Term break
22 February	Students return to Online Lessons
22-25 February	Year 11 Virtual Mock Interviews
23 February	Year 8 M Virtual Progress Meetings
25 February	Year 8 E Virtual Progress Meetings
1/2 March	Year 8 Options Surgeries
5 March	Year 8 Online Options Submission Deadline
9 March	Year 12 Virtual Progress Meetings

this information carefully, along with feedback from parents’ evening and information from the Careers Fair to consider your child’s options for Key Stage 4. We are here for you if you need help with this as we know it is a big decision.

The last day of this half term is a Press Pause Day. On this day no virtual learning will take place. Instead we are asking students to ensure they are up to date with everything and have their work in order. This will give students the chance to catch up before the new half term, and will allow them to truly switch off and enjoy some much needed rest over the break.

In addition, I want to inform you that I have made the decision to call an extraordinary INSET day for the day before students are due to return. Staff are working tirelessly and to allow us to prepare fully, reset expectations and be ready to welcome the students back safely I feel this will be beneficial for all.

I would like to thank those parents who have taken the time to thank our staff for their hard work. It has been so nice to hear such positive feedback from our community.

I hope that you all have a well-deserved half term break.

Mr P Gibson
Headteacher

Lateral Flow Testing

Click on the image and follow the YouTube link to view the process the school will be following to ensure your safety in school.

YOUR SAFETY IS OUR MAIN CONCERN



WILDE

CURIE

BOLT

ATTENBOROUGH

YOUSAFZAI

RODDICK

House News

Well done to everyone for their amazing efforts this half term and for achieving so many house points! Not only have there been many house points awarded but our houses have raised a lot on money for worthwhile charities who desperately need donations. We are so proud of #TEAMMAIDENERLEGH

Wellbeing House Challenge

This half term we have launched our Wellbeing House Challenge. Get involved in one of the mindfulness activities listed on your google classrooms page or find a mindfulness activity of your own and then tell us what you did and how you got on to earn house points.

Each response will earn you a house point and the best entries (with photos/descriptions) will earn 5 house points!

Maybe try:

- 1) A mindfulness meditation - Have a look at some of the guided meditations linked onto your House google classrooms page.
- 2) Mindfulness colouring - You can use any colouring pages for this activity. Encourage quiet colouring quietly and remember, if you make a mistake, just to breathe and move on. Mindfulness is about just letting the experiences pass us by without making judgements about them.
- 3) Mindfulness Nature Observation - Take a ten minute nature walk to help you breathe in fresh air and experience the outdoors for a change. While you are out there, look around and take in the environment with your senses.
- 4) Yoga Poses - Spend ten minutes practicing some simple yoga postures, like tree, warrior, and half-moon pose. If you're not sure about how to teach the postures, you can always search for a video and play it while you practice alone or with your family. End yoga practice with a relaxing pose of laying on our backs. It's a great way to incorporate meditation, too!
- 5) Mindfulness 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 - Look around your current surroundings and find five things you can see, four things you can touch, three things you can hear, two things you can smell, and one thing you can taste.
- 6) Recite Positive Affirmations - Tell yourself positive things about yourself, remind yourself of the things you do really well and the good things that have happened today.
- 7) Box Breathing Technique - Sit in a quite space and close your eyes. Try to control your breathing by breathing in through your nose for four seconds, hold for four seconds, breathe out through your mouth for four seconds and hold empty for four seconds. Try to do this five or six times.
- 8) Spend a few hours without technology - try reading or spending time with your family without the distraction of your phone or the television.



Boggle Championships

Fancy yourself as a word wizard? Check out the Boggle Championship - a 3 round process to crown the top Boggler! Look at the Boggle classroom - 2zkkxmq - for the grid and rules. Submit your list to that assignment. Good luck, bogglers!

Festive Jumper Day

We raised a whopping £997.50 in total from the Festive Jumper Day held in December, the charities were chosen by students from each of the Houses. The charities selected and amounts donated were:

Wilde: Alzheimer's Society £172.00

Curie: Marie Curie Charity £114.00

Bolt: Sport in Mind £158.00

Attenborough: World Wildlife Fund (WWF) £166.50

Yousafzai: Malala Fund £91.00

Roddick: Daisy's Dream £124.00

Thank you so much to everyone who took part and for everyone who donated.

Below are some pictures of the staff taking part in the all festive fun.



HOUSE POINT UPDATE

WINTER HALF TERM SCORES ON THE DOORS...

1st place- Bolt – 6442

2nd place- Wilde – 6438

3rd place- Roddick – 6432

4th place- Curie – 5977

5th place- Yousafzai – 5935

6th place- Attenborough – 5510

Well done everyone! Keep entering house competitions and completing fantastic work so that your teachers can keep awarding you house points.



MFL Christmas Bake-Off Competition!

We could not have ended the year better with so many participants in the annual MFL Christmas Bake-off Competition 2020. What fantastic entries we have had from students and staff! 36 amazing entries! We had a difficult time judging all the entries. Well done to all who participated! It has been marvellous to see so many wonderful showcases of traditional Christmas desserts with a twist!

Our winners were awarded with generous house points, a certificate and goodie bag. All other participants were awarded house points and a praise letter home for their super effort and participation.



1st Bûche de Noël



2nd Lebkuchenhaus



3rd Casa de jengibre



Staff Winner -



1st Sapin de Noël
Mrs Rae

Here are some of the wonderful, mouth-watering entries. As you can see, we had a very tough time deciding on the winners!



Work of Art

Artist of the Month - December

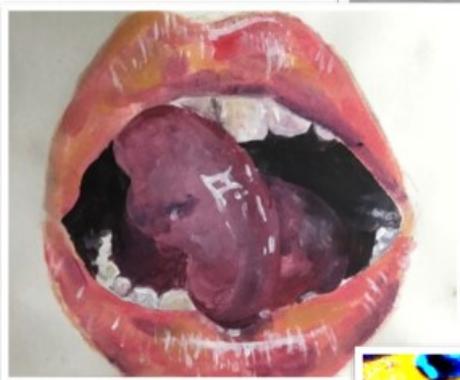
Congratulations to Ariana Z (Yr9), Thady R (Yr9), Anushri G (Yr12), Bella S (Yr12), Eric C (Yr12), Katie J (Yr12) and Simeon B (Yr12) for being awarded 'Artist of the Month' for December.



Ariana Z



Thady R



Bella S



Eric C



Anushri G



Katie J



Simeon B

Work of Art

Artist of the Month - January

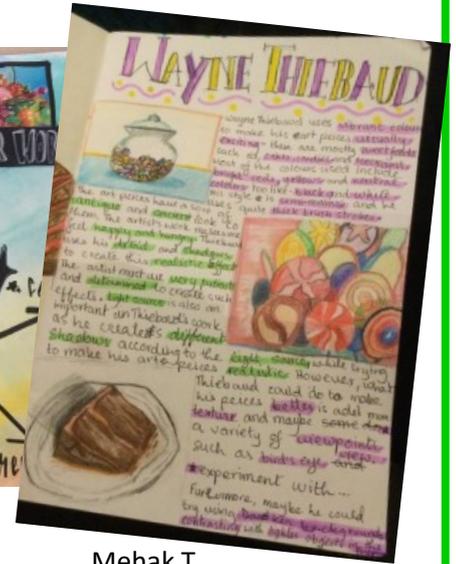
Congratulations to Ana M (Yr8), Elliot R (Yr8), Heidi H (Yr8), Lara C (Yr8), Mehak T (Yr8), Melis F (Yr8), Sam W (Yr8), Samanvi B (Yr8) and Yesung J (Yr8) for being awarded 'Artist of the Month' for January.



Ana M



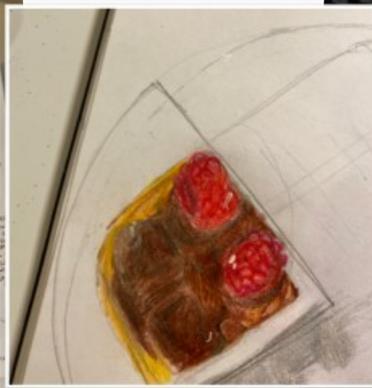
Heidi H



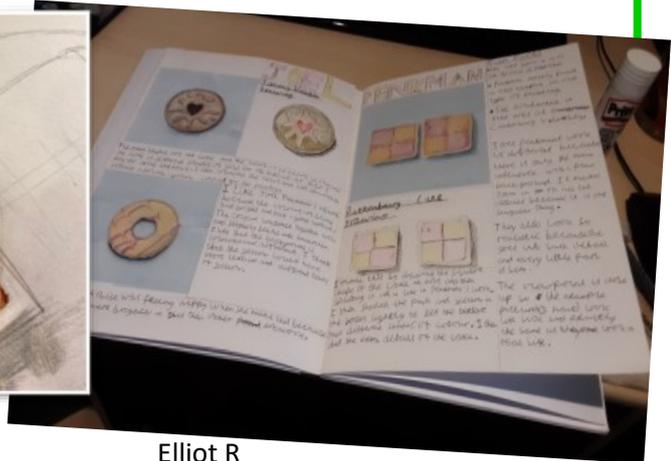
Mehak T



Lara C



Melis F



Elliot R



Sam W



Samanvi B



Yesung J

Careers, Work Experience, Work Related Learning and STEAM Provision

As we approach the end of the first half term of 2021, we want to share with you some of the activities that have been going on as part of our careers, work experience, work-related and STEAM learning programme at Maiden Erlegh School. We continue to adapt our provision in light of the current pandemic to provide young people with robust careers education, information, advice and guidance during these uncertain times:

Trust Virtual Apprenticeship Parents Information Evening

This year we took the decision to deliver the Trust Apprenticeship Parent Information evening virtually by uploading pre-recorded presentations to our website, which can be viewed at your leisure. The presentations and resources were specifically designed for parents to help you to become equipped with the knowledge to confidently discuss the apprenticeship route as a viable option available to young people, either at post-16 or post-18. It is also useful to start having discussions with younger students about the merits of embarking on the apprenticeship route. There are a series of videos aimed at parents and students. A link to the different videos can be found here:

<https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2092&type=pdf>

Trust Virtual Careers Fair 2021

On Tuesday 2 February, the Trust Virtual Careers Fair went live!

The format for this year's Careers Fair was very different to previous events, but with no less of a focus on the valuable resources that we can offer students with an online directory of careers, apprenticeships and contacts for further research into careers roles. Students' questions were answered! From acting to theoretical physics... students were able to listen to what our representatives had to say in response to their questions. A link to the Virtual Careers Fair was shared with everyone across the Trust from midday on Tuesday 2 February and the resources were made available from this date onwards. This will allow students and parents to explore the resources at their leisure. Students in Year 8 are able to source helpful guidance for their GCSE options, and Year 11 for their A-level options, as well as giving guidance on careers pathways and apprenticeship opportunities for all students in the longer term. Please take full advantage of the wealth of resources available to you as this is valuable information relevant to all students.

Year 13 Destinations Workshops

In February and March we are offering Year 13 students the opportunity to participate in a series of 3 interactive virtual sessions led by Pathway CTM. Whilst the sessions are open to all students in Year 13, they are specifically aimed at those who wish to embark on the apprenticeship, employment or gap year route when they leave us at the end of the academic year. We will be delivering sessions on:

Session 1

Exploring the different options available as a school-leaver (apprenticeships, degree-level apprenticeships, employment and gap year schemes), including how and where to apply.

Session 2

Winning at assessment centres – a step by step guide.

Session 3

Mastering the 1-1 interview – phone, online and face-to-face.

#Careers Week 3 – Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week 2021 and Raising Awareness of Inspirational LGBT Figures within Careers Education

During the week of 8-12 February, we celebrated #careers week 3. To tie in with LGBT Awareness Month, part of the theme of #Careers Week 3 was to raise awareness of inspirational LGBT figures within careers education and the different subjects that students study.. We also took the opportunity to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week 2021 during this week to promote the benefits of pursuing the apprenticeship route. Students were shown engaging resources and video clips so that they are fully informed and empowered to make their own careers decisions.

Year 11 Careers PSMSC Sessions and Employer-led Mock Interviews

During the week commencing Monday 22 February, Year 11 students will be participating in Careers-related PSMSC sessions including dressing to impress, working with different people, customer service, finance, personal branding, networking and selling yourself. The purpose of these sessions is to support students to become work-ready and to develop their understanding of the workplace and their employability skills. Students will also be participating in a 20 minute virtual employer-led mock interview. Students will create a CV, research the role, and be interviewed based on a real job description. The employer will then provide a 5 to 10 minute debrief to each student based on the interview and provide an opportunity for students to gain valuable feedback on their CV.

Year 12 'Next Steps' Sessions

We are in the process of organising 'next steps' group sessions for students in Year 12, delivered by Adviza to support and guide students to start considering the options available to them post-18 including the university, apprenticeship, gap year and employment routes. Further information to come in due course. Due to the ongoing lockdown restrictions, these sessions will be organised to commence after the Easter holidays.

Forthcoming Events

National Careers Week – w/c Mon 1 March

Creative Careers Week – w/c Mon 1 March

#Careers Week 4 – w/c Mon 22 March

MES Bull Run 2021: Money in Motion

Financial literacy is critical because it equips us with the knowledge and skills we need to manage money effectively. It's one thing that will impact almost every aspect of our lives.

Starting this half term with some social media build up, we will be launching the first season of MES Bull Run 2021, an educational game that allows MES students to start their financial literacy journeys.

The program gives 15-18 year old students, maybe with an interest in business and economics, a virtual £100,000 to invest in the dynamic world of capital markets. MES will provide the students training, education and a range of digital resources.

Our aim is for students to learn something, but to actually enjoy and embrace learning about some financial

concepts. It is important they understand the basic concepts of financial decision making before they take on their own responsibilities.

Financial literacy isn't something that happens overnight. It starts with sparking an interest. It could be that memorable teacher, a game of monopoly, or a student entering MESBullRun2021? Lifelong learning, building upon a foundation and expanding our knowledge base are fundamental to improving our overall financial literacy.

MESBullRun2021 is a fun way that we will be starting our work to help our students become equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take charge of their financial lives when the time comes.



Parenting Special Children's mission is to provide specialist parenting support to parents and carers of children and young people with Special Needs, so that they can create positive change in their lives.

Visit the website below for free zoom meetings and advice for parents:

www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

To view upcoming events, please use the link below:

<https://www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/>

Young Carers

Who is a Young Carer?

A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring unpaid for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.

What did Young Carers achieve last term?

Last term was busy for Young Carers, we have been learning about our mental wellbeing, looking after others and looking at how we can take time out to practice self care. We have enjoyed meeting as a group and sharing strategies that we use to help us through these strange times!

What are Young Carers working towards next term?

Looking ahead to the next half term, we will be continuing to focus on how we can let off some steam and look after our mental wellbeing. We are particularly looking forward to a visit from Wokingham Young Carers to hear about their latest program of support! If you are interested in joining us at these sessions please speak with Miss E Kelly.

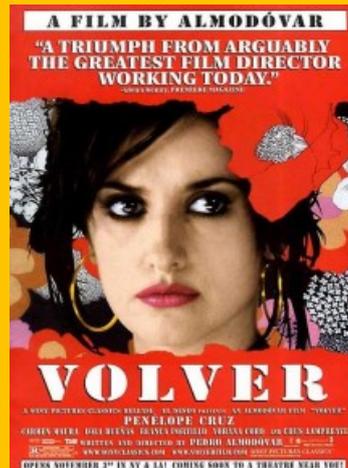
What to do next?

If you think you or someone you know is or could be a Young Carer, please contact Miss E Kelly via the School office.

Year 13 British Film Institution

On Tuesday 26 January, our Year 13 A level Spanish students and the Spanish Department joined a live conference organised by the BFI education (British Film Institution). The webinar covered the films *Volver* from the famous Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar.

This online event was open for students and teachers of KS5 Spanish focusing on interactive language activities whilst offering an exploration of *Volver's* key themes including the representation of women.



The Webinar had over 400 people attending and interacting remotely.

The MFL department and our A level students truly enjoyed the webinar.

A special thanks to the Year 11 student who informed the MFL dept of this event.

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

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