



THE GRIFFIN

ISSUE 2: DECEMBER 2018

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Welcome to our Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of The Griffin. A lot has happened at Maiden Erlegh School since our last newsletter. We have had a very busy but very excellent first term. I am so proud of the extremely positive review of our work by Ofsted coming after our excellent examination results. I cannot say enough how deserved both are from the point of view of the staff and the students.

I'd like to congratulate our new staff and trainees for settling in so well. We welcome two former students back as teachers. Apart from making some of us feel very old, it is fantastic to see former students.

I had the privilege of attending a wonderful GCSE and A Level Music Concert. Our netballers did brilliantly on a soggy Saturday and the Under 16s were crowned Berkshire Champions. Our mathematicians have undertaken Maths Challenge and 15 Year 13 students have had a university interview day with Oxbridge Applications. Others have organised plays for students, run trips, are rehearsing for Grease and the number of clubs every day is astonishing. We are so lucky!

From January 2019 Mr Paul Gibson will be taking on the role of Headteacher for Maiden Erlegh School. Look out for information from the man himself on page 3. Preparations are also underway for our highly anticipated annual Careers Fair. See how you can get involved on page 10.

Finally I would like to wish you all a restful Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

Mary Davies
Chief Executive Officer and Headteacher





GCSE and A Level Results

Year 11 Class of 2018 shines

All at Maiden Erlegh School are delighted with how our students have performed in last year's examinations. Students and staff have worked tirelessly to prepare for these new examinations, and their endeavours have paid off.

- **85%** achieved at least a Grade 4 and **65%** achieved at least a Grade 5 in both English and Maths.
- In English, **91%** achieved at least a Grade 4 and **80%** achieved at least a Grade 5.
- In Maths, **89%** achieved at least a Grade 4 and **71%** achieved at least a Grade 5.
- **37%** of the grades on the new exams were **Grade 7 or higher**.
- 22% of the grades on the new exams were Grade 8 or 9 (with 20% Grade 8, 9 or A*).
- Overall our students gained 184 Grade 9 or A* (8%)

Mary Davies, Executive Headteacher said *"These results come from the students' hard work, determination and talent, and of course the expertise and dedication of their teachers and support staff. I am delighted that all these endeavours have paid off and I am immensely proud of everyone"*

A Level results build on last year's success

Maiden Erlegh School is once again delighted with how well our students have performed in this year's examinations. All their hard work has paid off and we are extremely proud of them.

This year continued to see the roll out of new and more challenging A Level specifications and our students have risen to the challenge again, improving on last year's performance. 53% of grades were between B and A* and 26% of A Level grades were A or A* (with 5% A*).

We would also like to thank the staff for all their hard work and expertise in teaching and supporting the students over the course of their studies. Mostly, however, we should like to congratulate all our sixth form students on their impressive results and wish them well for the future, wherever that will take them.





New Headteacher: Mr Paul Gibson

From January 2019 Maiden Erlegh School welcomes its new Headteacher, Mr Paul Gibson. He is a former member of staff at Maiden Erlegh School and many of you may remember being taught business studies or economics by him. We recently caught up with Paul Gibson to ask him about his new venture and his vision for the school moving forward. We wish him the best of luck in his new role.



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I take on the role of Headteacher at Maiden Erlegh School. As you will know from your time here, as do I from my previous 10 years at the school, it is a special place with fantastic students and of course wonderful staff.

As part of my Assistant Headteacher role at Maiden Erlegh I was responsible for organising the 50th Anniversary celebrations and it was at this point I realised how important your school was to you despite leaving it behind years ago. It is my promise to you that I will continue to lead this school in a fashion which upholds its high standards and offers opportunities for all students just like you had in the past.

One of the special things about Maiden Erlegh is the atmosphere within the school. It has a community feel where bonds between all stakeholders are strong and cohesive and this is one of the main reasons, I believe, that many staff stay here for so long and is also a major factor in why I decided to return to the school as Headteacher. Whilst upholding the school's original motto of Qui Veut Peut by ensuring that all who want to achieve can, I am also a very strong believer in the school's mission statement of Opportunity, Diversity and Success For All which I am sure you will all agree is a fantastic vision for any school. I have also been lucky enough to be nominated as a trustee for Tyr Abad Outdoor Centre where many of you will have spent time during your school days.

This is an exciting time for Maiden Erlegh School and Maiden Erlegh Trust and I am looking forward to taking the school even further forward. Please do continue to keep in touch and if you ever wish to visit please let me know.

Have a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Paul Gibson





A year of positive Ofsted inspections for Maiden Erlegh Trust schools



MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

2018 has been a very successful year for Maiden Erlegh Trust schools. Between 5-6 June Maiden Erlegh School in Reading received its first full Ofsted inspection. The school achieved “Good” in all inspection categories. This is a tremendous achievement in the short history of the school and we are very proud of the many positive comments in the report.

We were delighted to read that, “throughout the school, staff are hard-working and committed to ensuring pupils thrive, feel safe and gain the confidence they need to achieve” and that we have developed a “successful, engaging learning community”. The report recognises our ethos is, “built on the values of equality and inclusion, leading to a culture of mutual respect and openness” and that “diversity and a sense of vibrancy permeate the school”. The sense of ambition and vision for the school and the students is very clear, as is the value to the school of being a part of the Maiden Erlegh Trust.

Following on from this success, on 12 September 2018 Maiden Erlegh School received a one day inspection from Ofsted.

We are very pleased that Ofsted saw and have acknowledged the quality of our work here, not just academically but in terms of personal development and inclusion: *“pupils make excellent progress across all areas of the curriculum and achieve GCSE results which are well above the national averages. This drive is well balanced with a clear commitment to the welfare of pupils and staff. Consequently, there is a very positive learning culture in the school. Pupils from a range of backgrounds thrive.”* We are hugely proud of our comprehensive ethos and to have our work validated in this way is tremendous.

Our Values Statement is clear that we will not be complacent and we remain committed to continuous improvement, including taking on board Ofsted’s suggestion for “next steps”. We look forward to welcoming Ofsted back soon for a further visit with the potential to improve our rating.

Student Voice visit to Wokingham Council Chambers

On Thursday 18 October, the student voice team represented Maiden Erlegh at its first Wokingham Borough Student Council meeting at the Council Chambers.

Students were treated to a talk about the democratic significance of Wokingham Borough Council by the Mayor. The discussion also included a talk on the future of Wokingham Borough Council and the work planned for coming years from the regeneration office, and a deliberation about the Wokingham Youth Parliament. This was a good opportunity for students to hear about their local area, and for them to have their say about what they would like – both for now and what would keep them here in the future.





A proposed new secondary school for north Reading

Reading Borough Council, like many local authorities, is facing increasing pressure on secondary school places and has recently announced its desire to increase secondary provision in the borough with a new school in the north of the town.

In order to respond to this need, Maiden Erlegh Trust are preparing an application to the Department for Education to open a new free school in north Reading. If the application is successful, the school will open to students in September 2021.

Maiden Erlegh Trust, like Reading Borough Council has high ambitions for the children it serves and welcomes this exciting opportunity to work with parents, the local community and the Council to create additional high-quality secondary school places in the local community.

Maiden Erlegh Trust, established in October 2014, is based in Reading and is well known for providing high-quality education for local communities. They have a successful track record and first-hand experience of opening a new free school in the borough. Maiden Erlegh School in Reading opened in September 2015, and is consistently oversubscribed. Its work was graded "Good" in all categories by Ofsted in June 2018.

Mary Davies, Chief Executive Officer of Maiden Erlegh Trust said "We are very excited by the potential of this project. Our ultimate aim is to create a school with, and for, the local community that responds to the ambitions of local stakeholders, including local schools and businesses. Maiden Erlegh Trust will listen carefully to the local community, in the same way we did when establishing Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. We will also work closely with Reading Borough Council to establish the new school should our bid to the DfE be successful."

River Academy - November 2018

We are delighted to confirm that our application to open River Academy has been submitted to the Department for Education. We are now waiting to hear whether we have been shortlisted for an interview, which is the next stage of the process and an opportunity to discuss our proposal in depth. We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who has taken the time to give feedback on our plans and help shape the vision for the school. We'll keep you updated!

For further information please view our website: <http://river-academy.co.uk/>



Student Profiles

Arsalan Ali (2013)



Having passed my A-levels at Maiden Erlegh School in 2013, I soon found myself in a position of not knowing where to go next or what to do. Become an Accountant? Study Economics? Take a gap year? All these questions were going through my head until one day I (rather unexpectedly!) attended an aviation conference at Heathrow Airport. It was here I realised that maybe, just maybe I could have the best job ever!



Some kids want to be football players, others doctors, however since I was a kid, I was always interested in planes – even doing an Extended Project Qualification on the A380 (world's biggest commercial aircraft) during my time at the Sixth Form. Going through airports and seeing pilots in their sleek uniforms and smart travel cases heading onto their next adventure to another part of the world was so aspiring to me. I never looked up to any profession as I did pilots.



Top Picture: Landing the Airbus A320 for the first time, in France.

Bottom Picture: Captured by an aviation photographer at Gatwick Airport of myself rolling on the runway for take-off.

Having been given advice from the aviation conference at Heathrow, I decided to go to university where, whilst studying Air Transport Management, I took up flying lessons in a small Cessna 152 from a local flying club up the road from my university – in order to obtain my Private Pilot's Licence. Ever since my first flight, hearing the sounds of the engines spool up whilst I set take-off thrust on the runway, watching the ground rush past me and then suddenly floating seamlessly into the air and experiencing the world from 3000ft, I knew this was definitely the career choice for me. After gaining my PPL and graduating with a First Class Honours plus the Outstanding Achievement Award, I began focusing on what type of pilot I wanted to be; a Commercial Airline Pilot.



Having been accepted into a prestigious flying school based in Southampton I embarked on the journey. Initially passing 14 theoretical exams, I moved to Cyprus for 6 months to build some hours in another small aircraft, after which I moved back to the UK to fly slightly bigger aircraft out of Bournemouth, where I also eventually gained my initial Commercial Pilots Licence. After a further year of intense flight training, which included a few more theory exams and plenty of flying lessons, I was fortunate to receive a job offer (just before my 21st Birthday!) from Europe's Leading Airline – easyJet! From Lanzarote to Paris, I now fly all over Europe transporting hundreds of people on a daily basis in my £70m Airbus A320!



Just landed in my small aircraft from a short flight from Cyprus to Lebanon

A piece of advice I would give to whoever is reading this. You may not know what you want to do next, but like I did, and as the saying goes 'do what you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life'. If becoming a pilot is your dream, I wish you all the very best. Training is an adventure yet the job really is the best in the world!

Despite the fact that even now, as a pilot you never stop learning, Maiden Erlegh gave me the building blocks of knowledge and skills not just academically, but socially, to be able to succeed in whatever field I chose. With great teachers always pushing me to become better, this has seen me accomplish something I would have never imagined a few years back. One of my favourite memories from school is being able to plan and film the 50th anniversary celebration event. It was a pleasure to be part of the school's history and celebrate this great occasion with former school students.



Landing in Paris a few days ago

Where are they now?

Every newsletter we would like to feature profiles on former students to share where they are now, along with any fond memories of their time at the school. If you would like to be featured please contact us on alumni@maidenerleghschool.co.uk. It has been an absolute pleasure to read about the journeys of our students once they leave Maiden Erlegh School and we would love to hear from you!

We would also welcome visits from alumni and would be delighted to welcome you back to talk to our current students or attend events at the school.



Ummer Ali (2013)

Since leaving Maiden Erlegh School in 2013, I first undertook a two year Extended Diploma in Animal Management at the Berkshire College Of Agriculture, for which I got three merits overall. I then went on to study at Reading College, where I undertook a Higher National Diploma in Computing and Systems Development and gained a Higher National Certificate from it.

Unfortunately during this time I suffered two consecutive bereavements, first my nan and then my father. However, even after these and a particularly hard module, I managed to gain an HNC.

I am now coming to the end of taking a year off, while learning creative writing for leisure and volunteering with charity shops.



Jeremy Collins-Webb (2016)

Last year, in my gap year, I had the fortune of being involved in 5 projects, including a £73,000 budget show in Reading with Reading Between the Lines "Henry I". After that, I got involved with a smaller theatre company and we put on a small fringe piece in Reading, called *Peace*, which was awesome!

Following that, the 6 of us, dubbed Thee O Company, were commissioned to put on a 15 minute piece of street theatre based on *Wind in the Willows*. After that, I put myself forward to direct a production of *Hay Fever* with Thee O Company and we put that on in Woodley in August last year! Around that time, I also met a local producer who was creating a pilot radio show called *The Cat in the Flat* and I appeared as the French waiter in it! It's going to be available in stores this winter!



After *Hay Fever*, I decided I wanted to push myself to be a higher and professional level actor and performer, and did a foundation year of vocational training at Read College, which started last September. This year has been incredible and I highly recommend it to students at Maiden Erlegh who wish to become actors - the foundation year there is an excellent way to bridge the gap between school and pushing students who want to go to drama school thereafter.

I have auditioned for lots of drama schools and have the wonderful honour of telling you that this September, I moved to Liverpool to do a 3 year BA in Acting at LIPA (Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts)! This school offers me everything I want in cultivating myself as an artist, writer, creator and performer! I look forward to continuing to take bigger and bigger steps in creating awesome theatre in the future!



Mosaic Workshop with Cleo Mussi

Last Year Mrs Nottage and the Foundation Art Club won a National Art Competition with a mosaic piece of work that they created with a figure shape and individual tiles of clay. Having won the competition, we were rewarded with a wonderful prize; a whole day mosaic workshop working with the Artist Cleo Mussi which included all materials being provided free by Specialist Crafts Company.



On Tuesday 9 October Mrs Nottage along with nineteen Year 8 and two Year 9 students embarked on a wonderful day of mosaic making working alongside the expert Cleo Mussi. The students involved wanted to create a mosaic which included animals that you might see on and around the school site such as; red kites, foxes, bees and butterflies. They also included trees.

The group worked with focus and energy all day creating mosaics in small groups. The results were amazing and the artist, Cleo, commented on how amazing our students were at producing pieces that were far better than some adult groups that she works with!

Congratulations

Congratulations to a former A Level Art student, Felix Chesher, who has just had a portrait of Alan Rickman exhibited at RADA next to other works by well known artists. He's really proud that Alan Rickman's widow has seen the portrait, approved it and really likes it! Well done Felix!!



GCSE and A-level Music Concert

On Wednesday 7 November over 30 students participated in a concert in the drama studio. This enabled them to showcase the work that they have been doing as part of preparing their GCSE and A-level coursework. There was a range of instruments and both solos and ensembles including a boomwhacker group! The repertoire was varied and ranged from Duke Ellington to Little Mix. It was great to see students in all years from 9-12 take part. We were really pleased that all of our A level students were able to perform. The turnout in the audience was fantastic and everybody enjoyed the concert. All participants should be very proud of their achievements.

Maiden Erlegh Performing Arts





Careers Fair 2019

We are currently in the process of planning our annual Careers Fair and registration is now open for representatives to showcase their profession. This will take place on Tuesday 5 February 2019 from 7pm-9pm and promises to be the biggest and best yet, with new exhibitors and more invitees from all across Maiden Erlegh Trust.

As a former student, if you are able to take part as an exhibitor or know someone who is, please email the school office office@maidenerleghschool.co.uk with the subject title 'Careers Fair' and we will be in touch. We look forward to welcoming back our former students to share their journey post Maiden Erlegh School.

We would particularly like to welcome those working within the following professions/areas:

- * Graphic design
- * Journalism
- * Hospitality
- * Catering
- * Mechanics
- * Art and theatre
- * Charity work
- * Mental health
- * Finance
- * Teaching
- * Logistics



Confirmed so far...



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Train to Teach Event



BERKSHIRE
TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE



Berkshire Teaching School Alliance is in its 9th year of successfully recruiting trainee teachers for primary and secondary schools in Reading. We recently held our second Train to Teach event of the year on 29 November and welcomed a great turnout. The event was the perfect opportunity for visitors to learn all they need to know about teacher training and how to apply. Our event included a presentation by the director of the teaching school, followed by a Q&A session and attracted undergraduates, career changers, mature students and overseas students.

Our teaching school works with the University of Reading and offers the school direct route into teaching and is an ideal route for those looking for a school based training route. Although teacher recruitment can be challenging at times, the teaching school has had a successful 2018, in part due to the powerful effect of social media and networking.

With the Maiden Erlegh Trust growing, the teaching school offers various schools and subjects for would-be trainees and a wealth of experience. If you are interested in getting into teaching and would like to know more about Berkshire Teaching School Alliance as a route into teaching please see our [website](#).



Train to Teach evening

Tuesday 5 February 2019 7.00 to 8.00 pm

Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road RG6 7HS

Are you thinking about kick-starting an exciting new career in teaching? If so, our Train to Teach event is the perfect opportunity for you to learn all you need to know about teacher training and how to apply.

Come and talk to our schools and existing trainees about the School Direct route into teaching and hear about the many benefits of training through BTSa.

Berkshire Teaching School Alliance represent more than a dozen schools, both Primary and Secondary, in the Reading area. We work with the University of Reading and have an excellent track record for providing high quality training and support. Recruitment rates within our alliance are high and our schools often retain their trainees through to NQT and beyond!



Register for our event by emailing teachingschool@maidenerleghschool.co.uk or visiting www.berkshireteachingschoolalliance.co.uk



@berkshiretsa

Wokingham Youth MP

Congratulations to Varniethan K. (Year 10) who will be representing Maiden Erlegh School at the Wokingham Youth MP elections at the council chambers.

Varniethan has taken part in school elections and his campaign asks for extra cycle lanes, increased access to reading materials, and improved safe leisure opportunities for young people. Varniethan will take a manifesto to the final election where he will compete against 10 other schools in Wokingham in a bid to represent students throughout the local area as their Youth MP.

We wish him the very best of luck!



United Kingdom

outh Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK



...And finally...

*Maiden Erlegh School would like to
wish you a Merry Christmas
and best wishes for 2019*

We hope you enjoy the festive season

Image by: Atiya Q, Year 12

Keep in touch:

Website: [click here](#)

Email: alumni@maidenerleghschool.co.uk

