



****OVER HALF TERM PLEASE REPORT POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES TO
MESCOVIDALERT@MAIDENERLEGHTRUST.ORG****

22 October 2021 - Issue 40

From the Headteacher

What a fantastic first half term it has been! It has seen us return to normal school timings, trips, extra-curricular activities and no bubbles! I have been so pleased to see our students embrace so many opportunities. Thank you to the staff running these events, without their dedication many of these additional things would not go ahead.

In the past 7 weeks I have welcomed hundreds of parents to our virtual open evening and sixth form open evening, as well as having 32 small tours across the school. Prospective parents have been incredibly complimentary of students' knowledge and behaviour. Our students really are what makes this school so special, and I know that prospective parents would agree.

October saw the celebration of Black History Month in school. I am so proud of the extensive work on this to celebrate this important event with our students. A huge thank you to Mr Bell for all of his work putting this celebration together. Students have learnt about Black history in tutor times and have received podcast recommendations which highlighted important voices within the Black community. We are a school who prides itself on our inclusion and diversity; I am so glad we were able to highlight this to our students.

Our students have continued to amaze me. This half term saw COVID jabs offered to our Year 8-11 students and as always the students took it in their stride with a mature approach. Students were a real credit to themselves, and I hope we will start to see the impact of these vaccinations shortly. Whilst on the subject of COVID, a reminder that we will continue to ask students to wear face coverings within buildings, including within the classroom. I would also urge

CALENDAR

22 October	Students Finish for Half Term
25 - 29 October	Half Term
1 November	Students Return to School
15 November	Students Reports Published on ParentApp - Year 7/8/12
18 November	School Closed for Staff Training Day
29 November	Students Reports Published on ParentApp - Year 9

students to home test three times per week to help pick up asymptomatic cases. Well done to the whole of the #TeamMaidenErlegh community for their incredible effort to keep our students, parents and staff safe.

I hope that students take the half term to recharge and rest after a busy and rewarding start to the academic year. They have been so resilient this half term and I hope that they take time to reflect on a job well done. Please could I ask that students continue to be mindful over the half term break with regards to social distancing. Well done #TeamMaidenErlegh for such a great start!

Mr P Gibson
Headteacher

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

WILDE

CURIE

BOLT

ATTENBOROUGH

YOUSAFZAI

RODDICK

House News

What a fantastic start to the year we have had! After our first half term, over 11,000 house points have been awarded to students. This is because of the hard work they have been putting into their lessons, and as a result of the high participation in our house events.

Well done to everyone who has received a house point this term!

Students have been getting involved in the following House Events:

European Day of Languages Competition
Philosophical thinking Challenge
History Creative Artwork Competition
House Sports Events (Basketball and Rugby)
Music Competition
National Poetry Competition

Well done to every single person who has submitted entries and got involved!
There are even more exciting events coming up after half term.

European Day of Languages

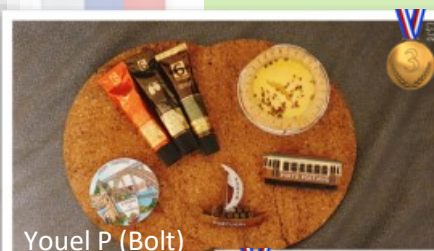
In celebration of the European Day of Languages on 26 September, we encouraged students to unleash and combine their artistic skills using a camera with their passion for languages (books, restaurants, social events, tradition holidays etc.). We had some great entries and awarding the winners was a difficult task. Congratulations to the following students:



Thea R (Atten)



Shayna K (Atten)



Youel P (Bolt)



Florence P (Roddick)

Welcome to Miss Borthwick House Captain for Team Yousafzai

I am so excited to announce that I will be the new House Ambassador for Yousafzai this year! I am really looking forward to working with every member of Team Yousafzai and watching us earn as many House Points as possible! If there are any House events you would like to see available, or if you would just like to introduce yourself as a fellow member of the team, I can usually be found in G block and would love to speak to you!



Philosophical Thinking Challenge

Miss Jones was incredibly impressed by wide range of entries to the Philosophical Thinking Challenge. Students responded in a variety of ways; we had poems, essays, reflections, drawings and every response illustrated how reflective our students are!

All entries earned house points and winners gained 5 house points.

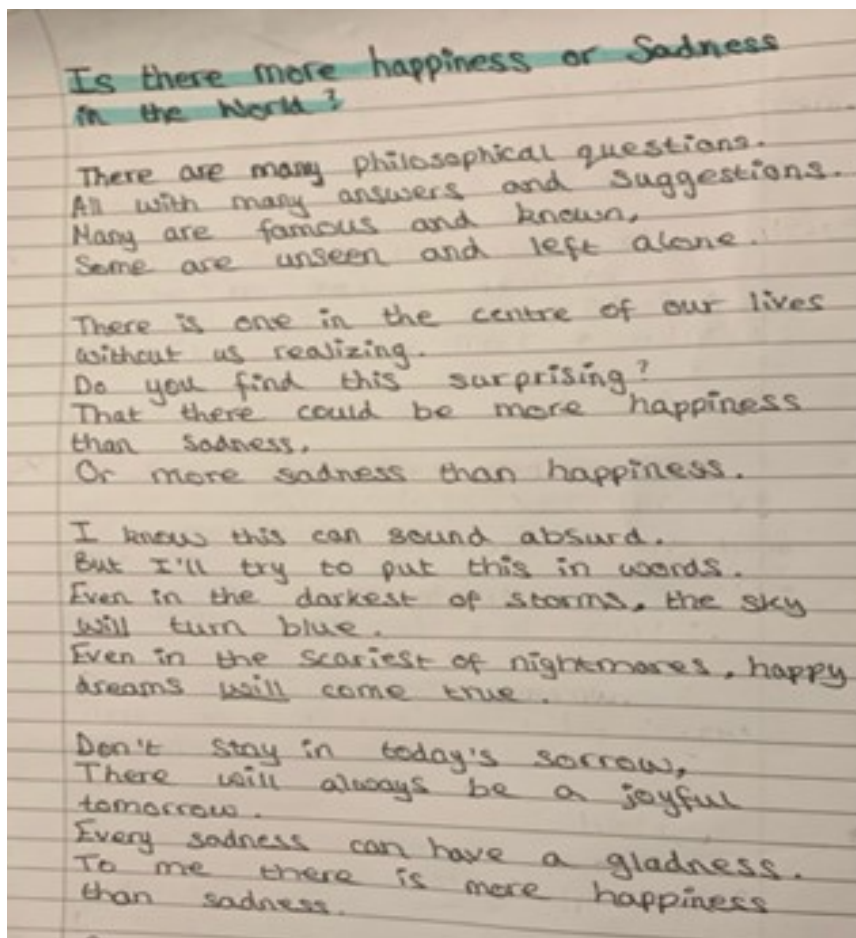
Congratulations to our three winners....

Manasvi D - Year 7 (CURIE)

Manasvi made a really thought provoking video showing sadness in the world but what we can do to change it!



Syeda N - CURIE (Year 9)



Aaminah N A - WILDE (Year 7)

If I borrow a million pounds, am I a millionaire?

Million Pounds Story

Walking home from school, I feel very excited for the rest of the day at home. As I take the last few steps home, a man walks up to me and says, "take a million pounds, borrow this money for a few days and have fun with it!" Then he leaves me with a briefcase full of money.

I go to my parents and tell them the great news, "Mum, dad look at this, I have a million pounds I am going to buy so much stuff!!!" They look at each other, shrug, then walk upstairs. With a confused face, I start brainstorming all the things I want to buy.

I could buy a phone, a mansion, a large TV, a gaming setup, and lots of other things that I want to get. Excitedly, I go to shops buying whatever I can, then coming home to my room smiling with everything I got. A while later, I would go to the shops again and buy phones, TVs, cars, laptops, iPads, toys for babies, stuff for teens EVERYTHING! I heard the TV, chanting my name every second. Blushing, I saw the people swarming my house stamping the floor like elephants running around. The newscaster bangs the door, I answer with pride when they ask me questions about my life as it is.

I look over at the briefcase thinking I could give everyone outside some, then suddenly I find that there is no more money left for me to use! I slam the door and run around the house thinking I might have left some behind, but there wasn't!

I felt worried because I still don't feel like I have enough! The community from outside smashed the door down. They know I have no more money to provide to them, they start taking all the remains and then the sound dies down. I realise that all the money I used to have vanished in a few seconds.

I see my parents at the side, throwing their hands out waiting for me to hug them. I run to them and weep. I then realise that I took everything for granted, my house, my shelter, everything I owned! I now know not to do this again because people who have none of these luxuries that I have will do whatever it takes to have this even when I said I would want more. How I feel now makes me feel better than before? I am not a millionaire even when I had it because not being one is much better than being one.

Philosophical Thinking Challenge - Special Mentions

Is there more past or future?

It is clear that there is no definitive answer to this question, and it is purely based on one's views and/or beliefs. From a common Atheist/Secular point of view, it could be argued that every atom has always existed and will always exist. From this belief, we understand that physically, nothing has a beginning or an end. This shows that on a timeline, where 'now' is in the middle, on either side, it never ends. This can also be said as 'there is an infinite past and an infinite future'. Upon first analysis, we understand that theoretically, the amount of time that the past and future will/ have existed is equal. However, infinite is not a mathematical value, and therefore making the question unanswerable.

On the other hand, we can look at this from a common religious perspective, where it is believed that God created time, and therefore there was a point where time did not exist. This would also be the point where the past stops, hence theoretically and mathematically, the length of the past is measurable, and so it has a definitive value. Most of the largest religions believe in life after death, also known as the hereafter. It is usually mentioned in holy scripture that the end is an appointed time, which only God knows. But a question arises here; will God end time after the end of the universe?

Even if we were sure that time had a beginning and an end, it would be physically impossible to precisely calculate when it started, and when it will end, simply because the Solar system has existed far too long for us to see what was before, and, that we just cannot surely know when it will all end.

To conclude, this question is unanswerable from different viewpoints, of the history and future of the universe. This is because if everything was always there, the past and the future do not have values, and from a religious point of view, we do not know if God will stop time or not. Furthermore, regardless, it is still impossible to calculate how much time there was, and how much time there will be, even if we are sure there is a beginning and an end. Due to the explained reasons, we cannot answer whether there is more past or future.

By Adam M – CURIE (Year 10)

Is there more happiness or sadness in the world?

This question really depends on how your lifestyle is so there is no fixed answer e.g. if someone was rich and had a nice lovely family and had a nice job and nice friends I would assume they are happy with their life. However, if someone was poor and very hungry and has no family and friends I think lots of people will assume they are sad about their life.

However, someone who is homeless might get a small donation for someone that will make the homeless person happy and someone who is rich and have lots of friends still might feel like there is something wrong with their life and that will make them sad in life we will all have sad moments and happy moments huge part of that depends on the environment you live and your mental wellbeing.

Ikemba U - CURIE (Year 10)

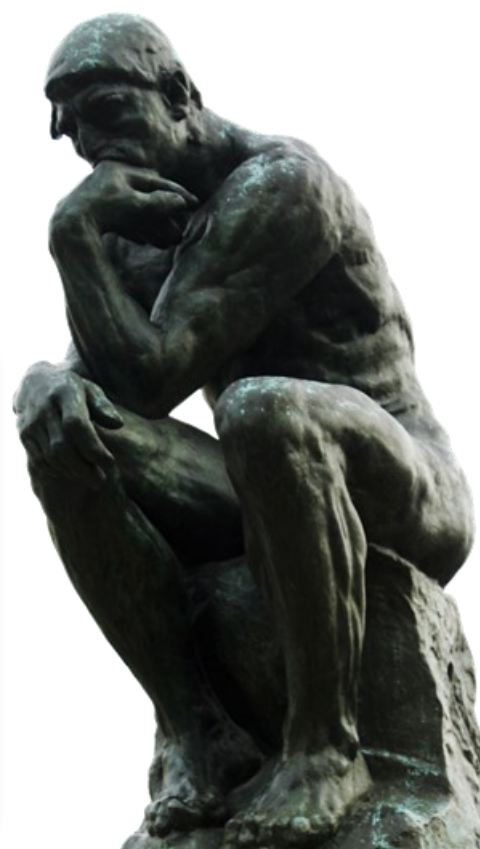


Tianna C - CURIE (Year 7)

Is there more future than the past?

The future is infinite, but time only started when we started counting. I think that it is our actions that indicate the future, you might change the past but you cannot change the future as it only reflects on your actions. You can't tell how long the future would last. No one can really know which is more. The past is smaller than the future because 100 million years ago there was nothing but the future was infinite. All these have begun at different times - the universe, planets, animals, humans and some might die at different times or even early. It depends on our actions as society and what impact we have on the environment.

Parvathi K - RODDICK (Year 8)



Philosophical Thinking Challenge - Special Mentions

Is there more future or past?

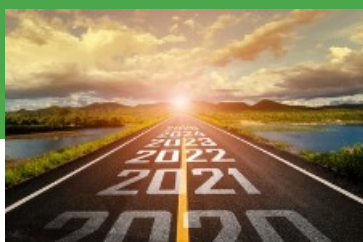
Is there more future or past? Just by looking at the future, I can sense it, the danger of the end of the entire universe coming to an end from the sun explosion coming right by us anytime! Us people dying, like the dinosaurs, 65 million years ago from the hazardous and rocky asteroids. Good luck to my future family from one of your ancestors hopefully living in heaven waiting for you. Alas! When I look at the past, there are over a trillion ways to explore it. The past is

massive! There's a lot of history to go through, 10 days ago was a history, 10 hours ago was a history and even 10 seconds ago was a history. Every minute of our lives counts as the past! While gazing at the past, I already had wishes of either living in the era of Renaissance, the Middle Ages, the best era of mankind and the start of a whole new culture. The ancient past to me would be nothing but peace, no traffic, no global warming, no deforestation, less pesky humans and

so much more. I could see Jesus performing miracles when he got incarnated, I could glance at the different kingdoms and more of monarchy, I could see a big shape known as Pangea before it got separated from the tectonic plates, which is extraordinary.

The past is behind, learn from it. The future is ahead, prepare for it. The present is here, live it!

Jasmitha J – WILDE (Year 9)



Agatha M Year 9 (BOLT)

Philosophical Thinking Challenge

1 Is there more happiness or sadness in the world?



I think I am the one who controls my lifestyle. I can think positively and be happy or think negatively and be sad.

If some obstacles stand in my way if I was a negative, sad person I would just shut down (give up) but if I was a positive, happy person I would never give up and learn from my mistakes.

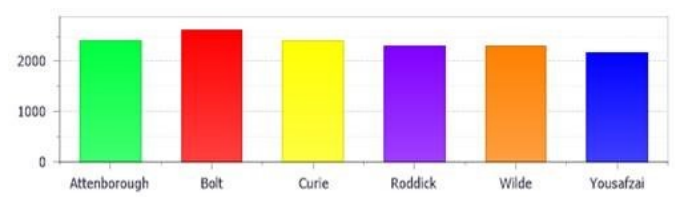
So, in the end we're the ones who put the standard of our lifestyle.

Ahmad J Year 7 (BOLT)

SCORES ON THE DOORS

Final scores at the end of October half term are..

- 1st Team Bolt - 2627 points
- 2nd Team Attenborough - 2421 points
- 3rd Team Curie - 2418 points
- 4th Team Roddick - 2317 points
- 5th Team Wilde - 2313 points
- 6th Team Yousafzai - 2170 points



How long can Bolt stay on top? Remember, every house point counts and each entry to a house event gains at least one point! Get involved.



Careers, Work Experience, Work Related Learning and STEAM Provision

After a very busy new term, we would like 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. The purpose of our careers provision is to:

- Provide a differentiated and personalised learning programme that is appropriate to the student's needs and stage of career learning, planning and development.
- Provide impartial advice and guidance so that students are aware of the different destination routes available to them and how to get there.
- Develop work-ready skills so that students achieve satisfaction in the world beyond secondary school.
- Empower students so that they embark on a student-led programme.



Higher and Further Education Fair

On Friday 1 October we hosted our very first Higher and Further Education Fair in school to students in Years 10-13. The event was an overwhelming success as students had direct access to post-16 and post-18 guidance, support and information to support them in making key decisions about their future career journey and to help them to think through the different options available to them. A large number of universities, apprenticeship, training providers and gap year representatives were on hand to engage with Year 12 and 13 students as they start to think through their options in preparation for when they leave us. To support students in Years 10 and 11, we also invited a number of local colleges including Reading, Bracknell and Wokingham, Henley, BCA, UTC and also representatives from Maiden Erlegh Sixth Form so that students can gain the relevant information so that they feel fully informed about making appropriate decisions for life after Year 11.



Year 10 Work Shadow Day

We have recently launched the Year 10 Work Shadowing Day which will be held on Friday 24 June 2022. Students will be given the opportunity to spend a day in a company and experience a real working environment. This will provide students with an opportunity to observe, listen, ask questions to interact with relevant employers.

Year 11 Careers Conversations

We have begun our programme of careers conversations to students in Year 11. Each student will be offered a 30 minute bespoke interview with Karen Wray (our Careers Adviser) to explore appropriate destinations post-16. Students are provided with a personalised careers action plan and a student careers pack with information to follow up so that parents are able to discuss potential destinations at home.

The different options explored include:

- Applying to Maiden Erlegh Sixth Form**
- Applying to another secondary school**
- Applying to a college**
- Applying for an apprenticeship**

We will also be delivering an apprenticeship awareness assembly in the near future to students so that they have all the relevant information about the different destination routes available to them so they are able to confidently make informed decisions about their futures. Activate Learning have already delivered an assembly to students, exploring the local college route.

Year 12 (and Year 13) Work Experience

We have recently launched work experience to students in Year 12 (and relaunched it to Year 13) as part of the 16-19 study programme. All students are expected to complete a 30 hour work experience placement which is directly linked to their chosen career aspiration. Students are to actively seek their own work experience placement by researching and contacting potential companies, going through the recruitment process e.g. completing application forms, CVs, interviews, and completing a suitable placement. Students should also be actively applying to the wide range of virtual work experience placements that companies are currently offering, which are shared with students on a daily basis.





Houses of Parliament Trip



On Friday 15 October, our Year 12 Law students visited the Houses of Parliament, to give them a more detailed understanding of the English Legal System and Law Making in real life. With risk assessments, masks and social distancing all in place, we were pleased to explore our country's capital; highlights being a tour of the House of Commons and House of Lords. We asked questions such as, Does Parliament's supremacy still exist in light of EU influences? How do politicians debate key draft laws and issues? What does 'catching a Speaker's eye' mean? And many, many more!

We debated key issues ourselves during a workshop that the Education Centre provided and tested our prior knowledge in order to further cement our skill set in Law. The trip was eye opening and provided all attendees with a true experience of justice in action!



Year 7 Pizza Toast

Year 7 Food Technology students had a very successful practical lesson recently, where they made some delicious looking pizza toast. The students chose the toppings for these tasty treats with some interesting combinations.



Work of Art - Artist of the Month - September

Artist of the Month - September

Congratulations to Toby J (Y8), Charlie W (Y8), Muhammad B (Y8) and Kieran F (Y8) for being awarded Artist of the Month for September.



Special Mention - Year 8 (2020-2021)

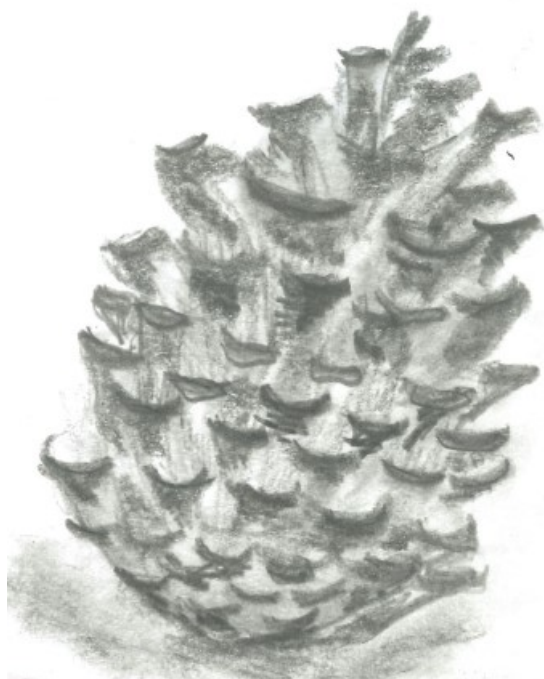
During the Summer term, Year 8 produced a series of text based work in Art and here is a selection of their slogan placards which were created. They took inspiration from a number of artists in order to design and paint their own placards. What a superb display they make!



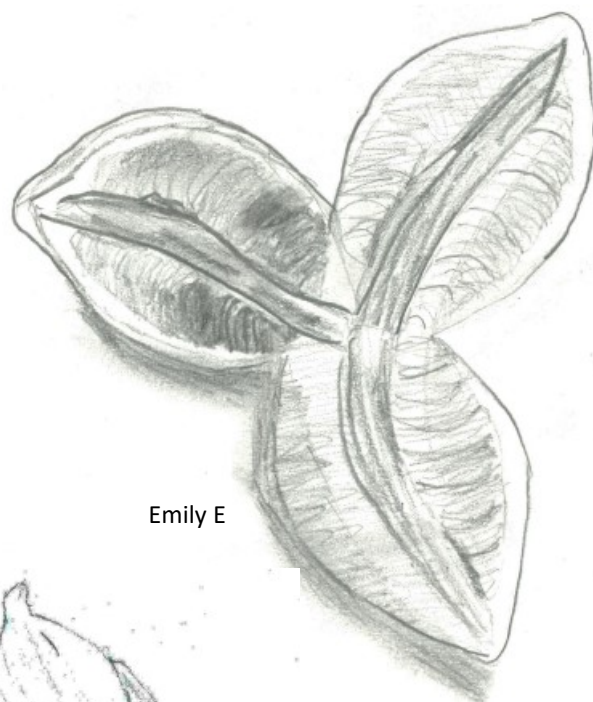
Work of Art Artist of the Month - October

Artist of the Month - October

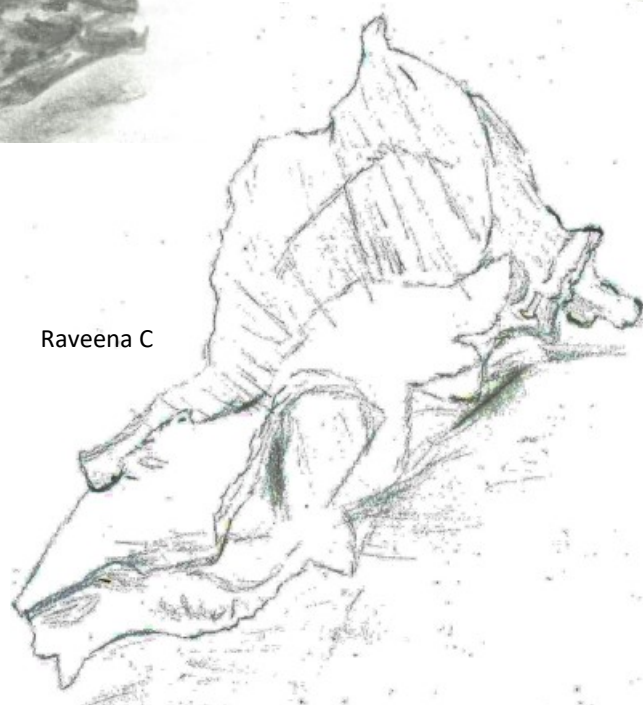
Congratulations to Chloe C (Y7), Rishik M (Y7), Emily E (Y7), Raveena C (Y7) and Maya G (Y7) for being awarded Artist of the Month for October.



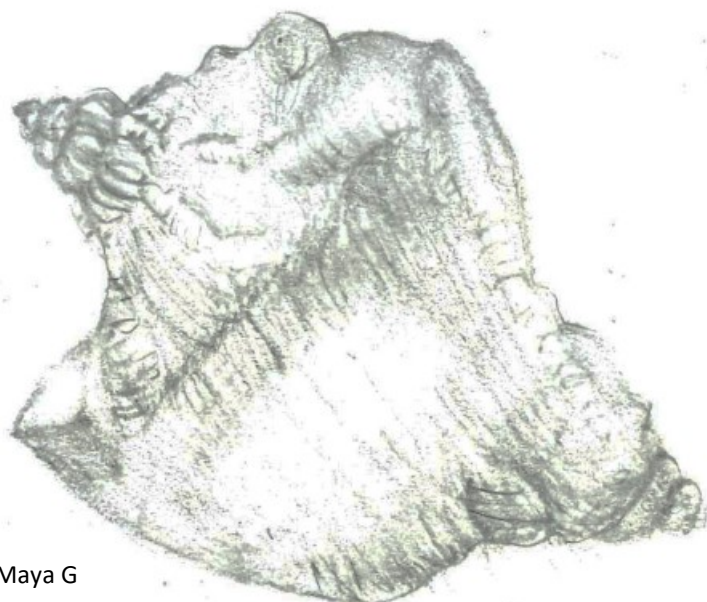
Chloe C



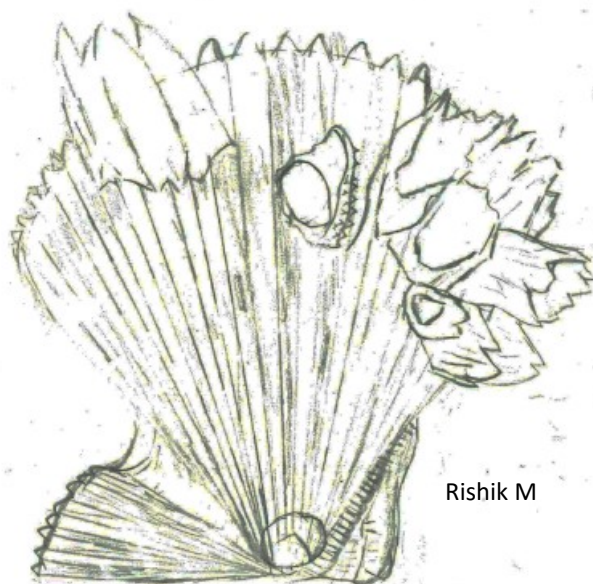
Emily E



Raveena C



Maya G



Rishik M

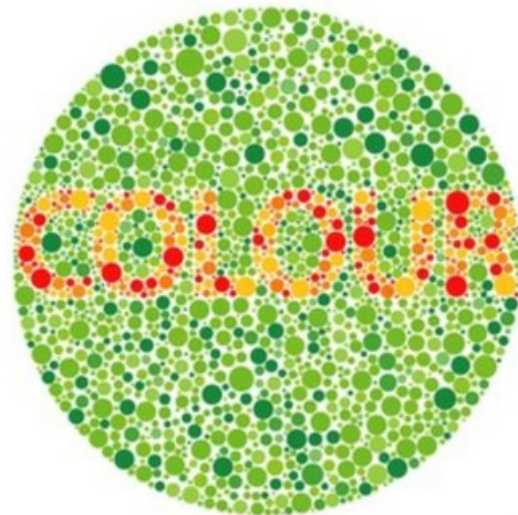
Is Your Child Colour Blind?

If your child is colour blind then please let me know, this is particularly important for certain GCSE/A-level examinations and we may need to award them a 'colour naming' exam concession.

We ensure this information is stored securely on our student information system, it is good for teachers to know in subjects where differentiation of colour is important so that all students can be supported.

Please email me directly at s.bendall@maidenerleghtrust.org

Mrs Stephanie Bendall
SENCo



EARLEY CRESCENT Resource Centre

Courses

From IT to cookery, we offer a wide range of courses and workshops for our community. We also run a comprehensive programme of free employability workshops for job seekers.

Family learning workshops run during the school holidays. We also offer tailored learning for vulnerable groups.

Please be advised that booking is essential.

Confidence Building - Wednesday 3 November

Emergency First Aid - Friday 5 November

Start Computing - Friday 12 November

Returning to the Workplace - Wednesday 17 November

More much more!



Click here to view 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



Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn Term

Friday 3 Sept - Friday 22 Oct

****Half Term****

Monday 1 Nov - Wednesday 17 Dec

Professional Development Day
(school closed to students) -
Wednesday 1 September
Thursday 2 September
Thursday 18 November

Spring Term

Monday 4 Jan - Friday 18 Feb

****Half Term****

Monday 28 Feb - Friday 8 Apr

Professional Development Day
Friday 11 February

Summer Term

Monday 25 Apr - Friday 27 May

****Half Term****

Monday 6 June - Tuesday 19 July

Professional Development Day
Wednesday 20 July

Additional Bank Holiday for
schools to celebrate the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee - Thursday 21 July

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and register your account.
Any queries please
click here to email us.



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Tackling Anti-Social Behavior this Halloween half term

Dear Resident,

We will be increasing patrols in your local area to prevent/reduce ASB during the half term, please be aware of where your children are especially on Halloween night, and monitor if they are buying fireworks or an excessive amount of food items that would be used anti-socially.

If you have any information about any crimes or anything else in your area please contact your Neighbourhood Policing team by telephoning **101**. If you would like to pass on information to your neighbourhood team discreetly then please email The Neighbourhood Team on their respective email address found on the Thames Valley Police Website:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>

If you wish to pass information anonymously please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 where your anonymity is guaranteed.

For regular updates on crime and disorder in your area you can sign up Thames Valley Alert www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter @ThamesVP (or can localise this), alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

Neighbourhood Policing Working in partnership to make our community safer



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**