



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson

MSc (Educational Leadership), BA (Economics)

 Silverdale Road, Earley,  
Reading, RG6 7HS  
 0118 926 2467  
 MESoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org  
 www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk  
 @MaidenErleghSch

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Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Year 8 - MES Speaks Up! Oracy Communication Cards**

We are delighted to announce that we will be continuing with our exciting work on MES Speaks Up! – our oracy strategy – this year, after a successful introduction of this last academic year.

A key element of this strategy is to support students in developing their ability to communicate using more formal language in a range of contexts and enhance their confidence in speaking publicly to larger audiences.

To support this aim, we are pleased to introduce our MES Speaks Up! Communication Cards to all Year 8 students. The cards feature a range of useful generic phrases designed to be used in the type of discussions which occur across all subject areas. For example, there is a card for making a point, supporting a point with evidence, agreeing with someone else, and making a prediction. The full range of cards can be found on the second page of this communication.

National research on oracy has shown that providing students with sentence stems for these kind of situations enables them to build confidence in contributing as they have a starting point for sharing their ideas and a clear structure to organise their thoughts. This initiative was successfully trialled with a group of students from this year group last academic year and the results were exceptionally promising.

Each Year 8 student has been provided with a set of mini laminated cards held together with a keyring. The cards should now be attached to the zip of their pencil case to keep them safe and in good condition. Students are expected to have these with them for each lesson and use them as much as possible during oracy-based lesson activities, e.g., paired and group discussions, and when contributing during class discussions. Staff will be actively looking to award House Points to students using the cards to formalise their spoken language.

We have shared these instructions and the benefits we hope the cards will offer them with students during an assembly and tutor session this week. We are asking for your support with this initiative by helping to check that your child has the Communication Cards with them each day as part of their equipment. Tutors will award 5 House Points to students who have their cards with them and intact at the end of each half term.

If you would like to support this initiative at home by encouraging your child to familiarise themselves with the phrases on the cards and trialling them out in home discussions, then this would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding the Communication Cards, please do not hesitate to contact me via the following email address [mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org)

Thank you in advance for your support with this work. **Please see the last page of this letter for the Communication Cards.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Bateman', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Miss C Bateman  
Teacher of History



**COMMUNICATION CARDS**

NAME:

TUTOR:

**Prioritise: most important**

...was salient...

...was fundamental...

...was critical...

**Prioritise: quite important**

...was significant...

...was notable...

...played a part in...

**Prioritise: least important**

...was minor...

...was insignificant...

...was negligible...

**Make a point**

It is clear that...

It is evident that...

It can be argued that...

**Support my point with an example**

For example...

This is demonstrated by...

This is exemplified by...

**Explain my point**

This means / shows that...

Therefore...

Consequently...

**Add an extra point**

In addition...

Furthermore...

It must also be considered that...

**Conclude**

Ultimately, it is clear that...

Having considered the issue as a whole...

Taking everything into account...

**Agree with someone else**

I completely agree that...

I concur with the points made...

Developing \_\_\_\_'s idea...

**Disagree with someone else**

Whilst I appreciate your points...

Although you have made some valid points...

Despite the fact that..., it must be argued...

**Involving others in discussion**

What is your view on...?

What is your perspective on...?

Do you agree / disagree with...?

**Asking for clarification**

Please can you clarify what you mean...

Please can you give an example of that...

Please can you re-explain that...

**Reporting a partner's idea**

(Name) indicated that...

(Name) suggested that...

(Name) emphasised that...

**Compare: similar**

Similarly...

Likewise...

In a similar way...

**Compare: different**

By contrast...

On the contrary...

Whereas...

**Predict**

Perhaps...

It is possible that,

I hypothesise that...