



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

4 September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome Letter - September 2023

I trust you and your families enjoyed a restful and pleasant summer break.

We are currently facing some technical issues with our IT systems and I kindly ask you to refer to the communication sent by Maiden Erlegh Trust for the current situation. As a result of this situation, staff at the school do not have access to any teaching resources and very limited access to the technology we have become accustomed to. To ensure that students make a smooth start to the year, we will be opening as normal at the times specified below. However, we must ensure that staff have the opportunity to plan effective learning and therefore, tomorrow, school will end at the end of P4 for Year 8 - 13 students and at the end of the school day for Year 7 students. Students in the Indigo Resource Hub and those reliant on taxis will receive further information from Miss Nimmo. This has been a difficult decision to make and would have been very easy to have delayed opening the school, but a smooth start to the academic year is our absolute priority. Staff are working extremely hard and strive to do the best by all students but we must give them the time to do this. I will update you further tomorrow on plans for the rest of the week. Please can I also ask that you are considerate of the technical difficulties we are facing when communicating with this school. If you have any questions about this incident, please email METAAdmin@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Despite the current situation, I eagerly anticipate the return of our students and extend a special welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students. Our dedicated staff have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to make this transition as smooth as possible. Mr Pringle, the new Head of Year 7, and Mr Crockford, the new Head of Year 12, are excited to extend a warm welcome to you and your families as part of #TeamMaidenErlegh. Starting a new school journey can pose challenges, however I want to assure you that our staff are here to help facilitate a seamless adjustment for both new and existing students, helping them to swiftly settle into Maiden Erlegh school life. Should you have any concerns or wish to share any events that occurred during the summer break, please reach out to us and we will endeavour to provide the necessary support for your child.

Throughout the academic year, we offer exceptional enrichment opportunities, engaging extracurricular activities, and a variety of house events and competitions for your child to get involved in. We encourage all students to participate in extracurricular activities, this not only enriches their school experience but also helps build friendships and assists in their smooth reintegration back to school.

Before term starts, I would like to offer a few reminders to ensure a positive start to this new academic year.

First Day Start Times

The first day of the new academic year is Tuesday 5 September, when all students are expected to be in school. As usual we will stagger the start of the first day, to ensure we are able to settle in our new students in Years 7 and 12 first, before the main student body arrives on site. The following arrival times will apply, and your child should go to the following place in school:

Year Group	Arrival Time	Where they should go
Year 7	8.30am	M Block Tutor Rooms
Year 8	8.45am	Covered Way
Year 9	9.00am	L Block
Year 10	9.45am	Covered Way
Year 11	9.45am	G Block
Year 12	8.30am	Main Hall
Year 13	9.45am	Dining Room

Our new school day will be in place and students will be expected to be outside at break unless it is deemed to be a wet break. The new school day is as follows:

Tutor	8.30am - 8.50am		
Lesson 1	8.55am - 9.55am		
Lesson 2	10.00am - 11.00am		
Break	11.00am - 11.25am		
Lesson 3	11.25am - 12.25pm		
Lesson 4/Lunch	Lesson		Lunch
	12.55pm-1.55pm	1	12.25pm-12.55pm
	12.30pm-1.00pm	2	1.00pm-1.30pm
	1.30pm-2.00pm		
Lesson 5	12.30pm-1.30pm	3	1.30pm-2.00pm
	2.00pm - 3.00pm		

School Uniform

Please be reminded that all students are expected to wear full school uniform every day. Although we are no longer in summer uniform, given the expected warm weather, students will be permitted to remove their blazers in lessons. Full school uniform should be accompanied by black polishable shoes, with no logos, unless the student has a formal medical condition, with evidence supplied, in advance, to their Head of Year. It is not acceptable for students to wear tracksuit tops and hoodies as coats, these will be confiscated for pick up at the end of the day. If an additional item to the school uniform is required, please ensure this is a normal coat. Shirts should be tucked in at all times, top buttons done up and a tie worn.

Students who do not comply with uniform expectations will be expected to change into spare uniform that we have on school site. We will communicate with you, where we spot issues so we can work together to solve these. The full uniform list and information on personal appearance expectations can be found here: [Maiden Erlegh School - Uniform](#).

For shoe requirements, [click here](#).

Equipment for School

All students are expected to have their own equipment for learning. All students are expected to have the equipment listed below contained within a transparent pencil case. This pencil case allows tutors to check the equipment of students quickly and easily. We appreciate that students may not be able to fit a scientific calculator and maths set in their transparent pencil cases and so we are happy for these to be carried separately in their school bags.

- Pens – black/blue, green and red
- Writing pencils
- Coloured pencils
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener

- Glue stick
- 30cm ruler
- Maths set (containing protractor, compass, set square)
- Scientific calculator – we recommend a Casio calculator - FX-83GTX or FX-85GTX, however most scientific calculators are fine.
- At least 2 highlighters
- Transparent pencil case

We recognise that some families may at this time be experiencing financial hardship. If this is the case or you are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, then please contact the relevant Head of Year, if you require additional support.

Whilst the technical issues are ongoing, students that would normally use a school device in lesson will be unable to do so. Staff are aware of this and will support your child where needed.

RAAC

By now, I am sure you have read about the concrete issues which are forcing schools to close. Fortunately, our Business Manager, Mrs Scott, had foreseen this and instructed a survey last year which found we are compliant and no remedial work is necessary. I am pleased with this outcome and would like to express my gratitude to Mrs Scott for her attention to this area and many others relating to H&S, finance and HR. I am sure this will provide you with a sense of reassurance as parents.

Toilets

During the summer, we started our toilet refurbishment programme, which was a key area in both the parent and student feedback where you requested this to be addressed. We started by renovating the boys' toilets in F&G block as these were identified as requiring the most attention. These have transformed into a more open plan design with floor to ceiling cubicles for privacy, which many schools are now adopting. The long term plan is, over the next few years, to offer a mix of open plan and more traditional toilet blocks, providing students with a choice. Some of our students do not like to enter into the smaller closed toilets, especially the younger students, whilst allowing those students who preferred traditional toilet blocks that option as well. To reassure you, there is no plan to convert all toilets into open plan designs. This approach will also help us control vaping and anti-social behaviour. In addition, there are specific single gender-neutral and disabled toilets across the site.

Term Dates 2023/24

Autumn Term
5 September - 20 October 2023 30 October - 15 December 2023
Spring Term
2 January - 9 February 2024 19 February - 28 March 2024
Summer Term
15 April - 24 May 2024 3 June - 23 July 2024
Professional Development days (school closed to students)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 1 September 2023 • Monday 4 September 2023 • Tuesday 14 November 2023 • Friday 23 February 2024 • Wednesday 3 July 2024

Contacting the School

Office/Department	Email Address	Telephone No.
Attendance	attendance@maidenerleghschool.co.uk	0118 929 6019
Main Office	mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org	0118 9262467
Safeguarding and Child Protection	s.tanner@maidenerleghtrust.org	
Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator	c.nimmo@maidenerleghtrust.org s.bendall@maidenerleghtrust.org	
Data Protection Officer	dataservices@judicium.com	0203 326 9174
ParentPay	parentpay@maidenerleghtrust.org	
MyChildAtSchool	mesmcas@maidenerleghtrust.org	
Student Portal	mesmcas@maidenerleghtrust.org	
Local Advisory Board (Governing Body)	governors@maidenerleghtrust.org	
Admission Arrangements	mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org	
Community Arts Office	mescommunityarts@maidenerleghtrust.org	

Results

Seeing a substantial number of jovial students collecting results at school in August was truly uplifting. Their remarkable accomplishments have filled us, #TeamMaidenErlegh, with immense pride. The standout highlights from this year's results include:

GCSE

86% of grades were 4+ (old C) in English and Maths

76% of grades were 5+ in English and Maths (11% increase on 2019 results)

33% of grades were 7+ in English and Maths

Attainment 8 - 6.1 - up from 5.7!

A phenomenal achievement from all our GCSE students. Well done Class of 2023!

Y10 Religion & Philosophy - 51% of grades were 7+

A remarkable start for the Year 10 cohort on their GCSE pathway.

A-Level

Our KS5 students were rewarded for their exceptional efforts with the following results:

33% of grades were A*/A

63% of grades were A*-B

85% of grades were A*-C

99% of grades were A*-E

We await to see where this puts our students' achievement in comparison with their peers nationally but it is expected that at both KS4 and KS5 Maiden Erlegh will be in the top 10% for progress and attainment.

Finally, I look forward to greeting all the students at the school gates on Tuesday and thank you for your unwavering support on our shared journey.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher