



Maiden Erleigh School NEWSBLAST



0118 926 2467 • office@maidenerleghschool.co.uk • www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk

OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & SUCCESS FOR ALL

30 April 2018 - Issue 18

From the Headteacher



There are a few things that have happened over the last week which typify the character and kindness of our students.

I have been absolutely delighted to receive three glowing reports from colleagues and members of the public about our students since the start of this term alone. The skiers, those students who went to see Macbeth and those who went to Thorpe

Park showered themselves (and the school) with glory in the way they behaved. We have also had visitors in school who have commented on how impressive our students are – in terms of both their behaviour and their attitudes to learning.

I am not surprised by these types of observations, as this is the norm for our youngsters. They understand how to treat others and take pride in themselves and the school. The fact that members of the public and venue organisers take the time to tell us is an even greater testament to how fantastic our students are.

This week a sixth former, knowing a younger student that was feeling some exam nerves, offered to support them. I have to say, so many of the students do step up to help others e.g.: through Peer Mentoring or leading the “Safe Space”.

I am so impressed by the Year 11s who are taking PPEs and revision sessions seriously, indeed over 70 of them came in over Easter to revise. I also see Year 13 with their heads in books and folders all over the school. That commitment to their independent study, as well as lessons, will stand them in good stead.

What is equally uplifting is seeing students after school taking part in various sports and other clubs – it is important for their wellbeing to participate in activities other than school work and staff are very grateful for the students’ commitment.

I know the Student Council are talking about creative ideas to raise funds, for which I am very grateful. We may have a conversation about the Year 7 and 8 idea of gunging staff, however as I feel I might be in the firing line.

I want to thank every student who shows the best of themselves and the best of the school every day – you are a credit to yourselves and to the school.

Miss M Davies

CALENDAR

3 May	Professional Development Day - School Closed to Students
3 May	Polling Station Day
7 May	May Day Bank Holiday
8 May	Year 8 Girls HPV Vaccine
8-11 May	A level Art Exams
9 May	Year 7-10 English School Athletics Competition – Boys
11 May	Year 11 Good Luck Day
17 May	Year 7-10 English School Athletics Competition – Girls

Reminder

WE'RE CLOSED

Thursday 3 May is a Professional Development Day

Students will be dismissed at 2.55pm on Wednesday 2 May and are not expected back in school until Friday 4 May.

Headteacher Recruitment

As you are aware, we interviewed for a Headteacher before the Easter break. Unfortunately, we have not been able to appoint on this occasion. We will revisit the appointment process at a later date. Until we make a suitable appointment, Miss Davies will continue to lead the school.

Term Dates 2017-2018

Summer Term

Mon 16 Apr-Fri 25 May

****Half Term****

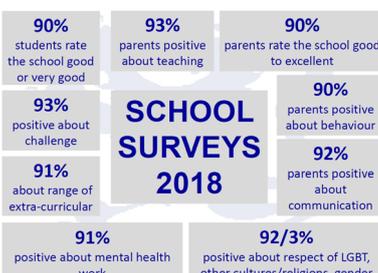
Mon 4 June - Tue 24 July

Professional Development Days
(school closed to students) -

Thur 3 May

Thur 5 July

For our 2018-2019 term dates please [click here](#) and scroll down our website to view.



YOU SAID... WE DID... 2018

Constructive feedback from our students and their parents is essential for Maiden Erleigh to continuously improve. Click on the relevant survey below to view our most recent results.

[Parent Survey](#)

[Student Survey](#)

The Return-Leg of the German Exchange – Year 9 and 10

Five months after our trip to Germany, our German friends visited us in March. It was great to see them again and to show them the sights of Reading. They also enjoyed day trips to London and Windsor and one day the whole group spent quality time together in Oxford deepening friendships and practising language skills.

The last day was certainly a highlight as German students sampled school life at Maiden Erlegh and we had the all-important British biscuit competition. From a line-up of jammy dodgers, custard creams, party rings and chocolate fingers, chocolate fingers were crowned the most popular.

The German girls remarked on how smart the sixth form boys were. This was a novelty as there is no school uniform in German schools: *“Guck mal, wie süß! Es ist als ob sie zu einer Hochzeit gehen!”* Translation: *“Look, how sweet! It’s as if they are going to a wedding!”*

Mother of a Year 10 student:

“For us, the exchange/s have always been about meeting a variety of people that we wouldn’t necessarily get to socialise with during our day to day lives. The positives are numerous but perhaps the most positive was my daughter having to step out of her comfort zone and surviving it, acknowledging that it was an extremely rewarding experience.”

[Click here](#) to read more reviews from parents on how this enriching experience has benefitted their children.



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wokingham Borough Council are offering some great adult courses this term.

- Excel for Work, 10 & 17 May, 10:00-12:00, Wokingham Library.
- Introduction to being a TA, starting 17 May for 6 sessions, 09:30-11:30, Loddon School, Earley.
- Introduction to being a TA, starting 6 June for 6 sessions, 10:00-12:00, Wokingham Library.
- ESOL – ongoing courses on Tuesday mornings in Wokingham or Thursday mornings in Lower Earley.

For further information please [click here](#) or email Catriona MacMillan at:

Catriona.MacMillan@wokingham.gov.uk

Creative Writing Club Competition

Last term in English we ran a creative writing club competition. The theme of the competition was ‘New Beginnings’ to celebrate the return of spring (rainy weather aside).

As always, we had a very high calibre of entries from almost all year groups. We were impressed by the difficult issues the students engaged with, and it was great to get so many last minute entries.

The results are as follows:

- 1st place: Anna Newell 11LK – an emotive story about LGBT+ rights
2nd place: Atiya Chowdhury 13M4 – a snapshot story about how nostalgia can bring about a new beginning
3rd place: Joel Begg 11E4 – a futuristic look at the idea of rebirth

Special Commendations:

- Natalia Hobbs 7M2 - The Beginning of all Beginnings
Ghalia Dawood 10M2 - A Season of Joy
Chris Starnes 11E2 - The Very First Astronauts
Anonymous Year 13 - [UNTITLED]



Geographer of the Half Term

The following students have been awarded Geographer of the Half Term for their respective year groups for last half term. This award recognises the quality of their effort and commitment to work both in lessons and at home. A congratulatory meeting with the Headteacher will take place on Friday 27 April.

Year 7

Jack Chadderton
Oliver Dobrzanski
Josette Osabutey
Esther Rock

Year 11

Anas Al-Hussainy
Owen Bell
Alexandra Isaacs
Dylan Matthews

Year 8

Priya Chudge
Camilla Linton

Year 12

Amy Guinn
Thomas Turner

Year 9

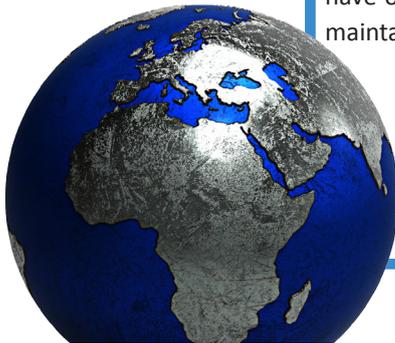
Zainab Ahmed
Ania Akhtar
Cameron Cann
Ben Ganpatsingh
Nathan May
Anna Starnes

Year 13

James Doye
Tom Jackman

Year 10

Doaa Abubaker
James Burbridge



Gaming Addiction in Teenagers

Gaming is part of many of our students evenings and a way to converse and interact with friends online. We are aware of a new game Fortnite that many of our students are playing and have attached a link below for your information. This game's main aim is to kill others and is comparable to other games that would normally have a 18 rating. <https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/mar/23/fortnite-shoots-to-the-top-of-teenagers-most-wanted-games-list>

We are also aware that some of our students are struggling with the amount of time they are gaming in the evening, sometimes 5-6 hours a night. This is affecting their attendance at school, sleep patterns and ability to complete homework. Gaming addiction has recently been classified as a disorder by The World Health Organisation and it is now listed as a mental health condition (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-42541404>).

Some of the symptoms include:

- impaired control over gaming (frequency, intensity, duration)
- increased priority given to gaming
- continuation or escalation of gaming despite negative consequences

We wanted to make you aware of this new game, some of the issues that surround gaming as a whole and the impact that we are seeing this can have on their school life unless they have help in maintaining a healthy balance.



World Health Organization

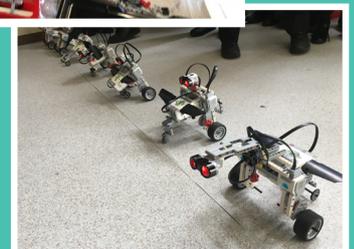
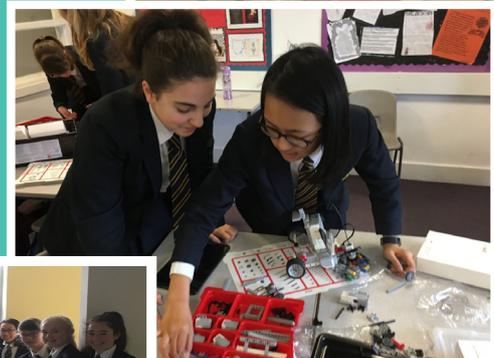
Year 8 STEAM Lego Mindstorm Challenge – Thales

On Tuesday 17 April we were very fortunate to host Thales who delivered a Lego Mindstorm Challenge to some of our Year 8 students. The event involved students building, programming and commanding Lego robots in a fun and engaging way. Students were soon in control of robots that drive, shoot, slither, walk, slam, and spin – to name just a few of the actions that come with this challenge. Thales also brought with them some of their current apprentices to help support and engage with the students and this also provided a great opportunity to explore potential STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Mathematics) future career destinations.

Rachel Major, 8E2 said “representatives from Thales came into school to show us the Lego Mindstorms equipment and we got to build our own robot using software on a tablet which was linked to a coded box

on the robot. We learnt about how each of the different parts works, for instance the use of sensors to inform the robots when there was something near. It was an amazing experience that enabled me to see how STEAM subjects can apply to the real world.”

We thank Thales for supporting our students with this exciting opportunity.



Performing Arts Showcase

On Wednesday 28th March the music, drama and P.E departments came together to put on a Performing Arts showcase. There were over 100 students involved from all years. The theme was film and television.

There were a variety of musical performances featuring music from the world of film and television. Music from Downton Abbey (string group), The Greatest Showman (choir), The Minions (junior band), Pocahontas (wind group), The Wizard of Oz (wind group) and Sweet Charity (choir) was performed. The samba band performed a unique arrangement of the Pirates of the Caribbean theme featuring Oliver Picken on trumpet. There were also solo performances and duets by Nathan May, Lucy Rees, Amy MacAulay, Hannah Schmeer and Anushri Ghosh.

[Click here](#) for the full story on the show and our fantastically talented students.



Musical Talent

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved success in their recent music exams:

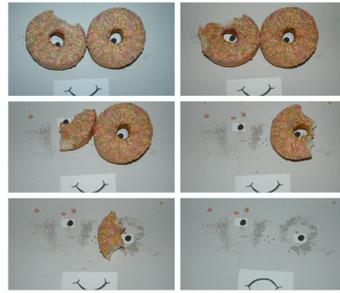
- Arjan Channa (Year 10) - grade 8 drum kit exam
- Harvey and Samuel Fraser (Year 9) - grade 1 guitar exams
- Emily Green (Year 10) - grade 5 vocal exam
- Matthew Halliwell (Year 7) - grade 3 piano exam
- Oliver Picken (Year 10) - grade 7 trumpet exam
- Krishiha Satheeskumar (Year 10) - grade 5 theory exam
- Simi Tiwari (Year 10) - grade 4 guitar exam
- Evie Andrews (Year 7) - grade 4 piano exam
- Ghalia Dawood (Year 10) - grade 5 theory exam
- Raphael Thorn (Year 10) - grade 3 drum kit
- Ali Kabeer (Year 7) - grade 2 drum kit exam

Good luck to year 9 pupil Nathan May who is participating in the premiere of Arturo Márquez' Danzón No. 9. with the National Youth Orchestra. This concert forms part of the National Youth Inspire project.

Artists of the Month

Congratulations to Nick Hutchinson Yr8 (this piece was submitted as a video, please click on the image to view on our website), Lucy Culham Yr10, Rhiannon Weaver Yr10 and Fay Onabanjo Yr12 for being awarded 'Artist of the Month' for March.

Nick Hutchinson Yr8



Fay Onabanjo Yr12



Rhiannon Weaver Year 10



Before and After School

The vast majority of our students recognise that whilst wearing their Maiden Erlegh uniform, they are representing the school and for the vast majority of students, their behaviour before and after the school day reflects their pride in their community and school, and for that we thank you and them. This was reflected in the fantastic feedback we received after the recent Ski Trip and Macbeth event.

However, as the weather gets warmer, I would ask you to remind your child about some key areas we have noted to keep them safe:

- When cycling to school, students should always wear a cycle helmet. You may find this you tube video a helpful discussion point: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bU-_bMDys4. It is also in breach of the highway code, to cycle on pavements, as it poses a clear risk to pedestrians (children and adults) who are accessing both Maiden Erlegh School and Aldryngton School.
- When shopping at Tesco's can we ask that your child does not stand/sit in groups in the car park, please can they move on quickly so other students and members of the community can access the store.

On occasion we receive complaints from our community about the behaviour of students outside school. We have a duty to support both the community, and the police, and we take very seriously any actions which will bring the name of the school into disrepute.

I would like to thank you again for your support with this matter.

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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