



Maiden Erlegh School NEWSBLAST



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OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & SUCCESS FOR ALL

26 November 2018 - Issue 24

From the Headteacher



I have been impressed and moved over the last couple of weeks with the response to our work on the centenary of the end of the First World War. We asked that students write letters to the “Unknown Soldier” as part of our commemoration and there were hundreds of examples. Some letters were extremely personal – written to fallen relatives. It was clear that

students had spent time discussing remembrance at home with their families. The students clearly understood the importance of saying thank you to all those who have served and given their lives and been injured in the past, but also to those who serve their country now.

I write this at the start of Anti-Bullying week and perhaps we should use some of the lessons of remembrance to consider how we treat each other. Kindness costs nothing and should be shown to all.

Time is flying by and Year 11 and Year 13 students have completed their PPEs – with both year groups taking them extremely seriously. The most important part of PPEs is the learning that comes afterwards – so they understand where to pick up the points next time. They should listen carefully to their teachers’ advice and, if they get the opportunity to retake papers, they should welcome that chance to put that learning into practice.

I must include a big thank you to all my colleagues who are working so hard and organising great enrichment at the same time. I had the privilege of attending a wonderful GCSE and A Level Music Concert last week. 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 (eg: Year 9 “Last Orders”), run trips (Year 12 “Safe Drive, Stay Alive”), are rehearsing for Grease and the number of clubs every day is astonishing. We are so lucky!

Mary Davies

CALENDAR

27 November	Year 11 PPE Results (After School)
4 December	Year 7 M Parents’ Meetings
5 December	Year 11 Drama Technical Rehearsals
6 December	Year 7 E Parents’ Meetings
7 December	Year 13 PPE1 Results
13/14 December	Year 11 Drama Technical Rehearsals
18 December	GCSE Music Performance
19 December	Christmas Concert/Winter Showcase
20 December	School finishes at 12.15pm for Christmas break
7 January	Students return to school

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 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.

If you have any questions about how to become part of the Wokingham Youth Parliament or how to get involved with student voice please talk to Miss Kelly or Miss Young.



CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OR COUNTY LINES – INFORMATION

You may have heard the term “County Lines”. The UK Government defines county lines as: “gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.”

Often, County Lines involves child criminal exploitation, even of children and young teenagers. It is important to understand that the victim may have been criminally exploited even if they appear to have consented, and that exploitation can take place indirectly (eg: through the use of technology). Rather like grooming, the degree of manipulation is high – through gifts, favours, perceived friendship/affection or threats.

Another feature of county lines gangs, is that they exploit vulnerable people, by building up a debt or using threats of violence in order to take over a person’s home. This is called ‘cuckooing’.

In school we educate students on County Lines, gangs, criminal exploitation etc through our PSMSC programme, but we are aware that parents have been asking for more information.

This is a national trend and there are criminal gangs using the County Lines operating model across Berkshire and Bracknell Forest.

Signs to look out for

A young person’s involvement in county lines often leaves signs, below are some of the indicators of county lines involvement and exploitation:

- Does your child return home late, stay out all night or go missing from home or school?
- Do they go to areas away from home, or meet up with adults/young people you do not know?
- Do their “friends” behave in a controlling way or have gang affiliations?
- Does your child have money, jewellery, clothes, ‘phones but can’t explain where they came from?
- Do they receive excessive amounts of texts, messages or phone calls?
- Do they come home with unexplained injuries or looking particularly dishevelled?
- Has their school performance suddenly declined?
- Have there been significant changes in emotional well-being?
- Does your child use sexual, drug-related or violent language you would not expect them to know?

- Are they using drugs or do they have drugs on them or in their room?
- Is their behaviour increasingly disruptive or aggressive?
- Are they carrying hotel cards or keys to unknown places?

What should you do if you have a concern?

You can always talk to one of our safeguarding team or your child’s Head of Year.

[Click here](#) for more information on County Lines from Andrew Hall, Specialist Safeguarding Consultant.

The Children’s Society have information for parents:

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources>



What can your child do?

Again, they can talk to their Head of Year or our safeguarding staff in school.

Childline has information for young people:

Crime:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/>

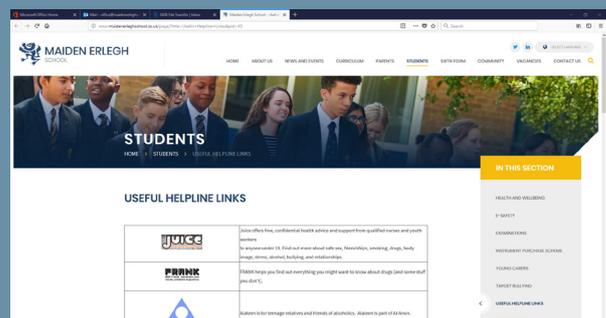
Confidential help lines:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/childline/>



Helplines on our website:

<https://www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk/page/?title=Useful+Helpline+Links&pid=45>



Poetry Competition

For National Poetry Day, Maiden Erlegh ran its own poetry competition. We had a fantastic amount of poems handed in and there were some amazing entries showcasing what talented writers we have at Maiden Erlegh. Well done to each and every person who entered; they were a pleasure to read.

Poetry competition winners are (click the titles to view these fantastic poems):

1st Prize: [Feminism](#) by Aleena - Year 8

Runners up: [The Eye of the Storm](#) by Callum – Year 13

[S'efforcer](#) by Chimdi – Year 9

Psychology Egg-Project

It was an egg-citing first half term for our Year 12 Psychology students. All the students were tasked with taking care of a foam egg, much as if it were a child. This was to deepen their understanding of the topic we are currently studying of 'attachment' from Developmental Psychology with the key focus being on child psychology. The task involved naming the new addition to the family to increase their sentimentality to it. Students were expected to stay with their baby at all times and take it to their lessons and after school activities, because 'egg-noring' their babies was not an option. They were asked to take photos of the daily activities they did with their "baby" and logged a journal of how feelings and attachments were formed. In relation to this they had to read around the learning theory and Bowlby's theory and apply their understanding of the theories to their attachment to their egg-babies and then finally form a conclusion about factors which lead to a good attachment. They were able to see just how demanding it is to manage time and understand the needs of a baby, as well as forming attachments. Unfortunately some of the eggs did not survive the experience (!) but the ME psychologists have deepened their understanding of attachment and experienced first-hand the psychological difficulties of it, ready to apply their new knowledge in their lessons. Some of the students reported 'It was hard to form an attachment because I gave so much, and she/he [the egg baby] gave nothing back and there was no reciprocity'.

The projects were judged for meeting all of the task criteria. It was a difficult decision to make as a majority of students had risen to the challenge and had clearly put in a lot of effort and energy in producing high quality projects. An overall a winner was selected from each Psychology class who received a 'Kinder egg' as their prize.

Overall winners were:

1. Ellie 12E3
2. Lauren 12E2
3. Jenna 12E5

Egg-samples of the project!



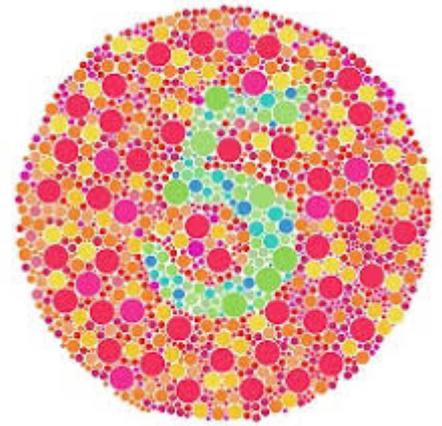
Science Faculty Webpages

The Science Faculty has a webpage with lots of useful information and support for Science and GCSE Science in particular as well as links to other websites and useful resources. If you have any questions about Science at Maiden Erlegh please have a look at the website since it will probably have the answer to your question.

You can access the webpage with this link: https://sites.google.com/s/0B_91r3anSsDVTUNBYWxWT3p4X0E/p/0B_91r3anSsDVZ1d3VmNrdzg2QVk/edit

Or via the school website; go to Curriculum and then to Science, there is a link there to the Science Faculty Webpages. You could also try putting "Maiden Erlegh Trust Science" into your browser.

Colour Blindness



We have recently reviewed all of our student files with regards to those that have a medical diagnosis of colour blindness. We are surprised by the lower than expected number we have found.

Can you please email us at medical@maidenleghschool.co.uk if your child does have a diagnosis and attach the evidence you have for this. It is particularly important if your child is in Year 9 – 13 and is doing Geography GCSE or A Level.

We are unable to conduct tests for colour blindness in school, but normally an optician will do this for you. We would like to use this information to update our records and ensure that we can make the necessary preparations in relation to access to exam materials in the future, particularly for Geography.

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!!



Check out the latest courses offered by the CResCent Resource Centre:

Emergency First Aid
Intro to English Language
Keeping Safe on Social Media
And many more!

[Click here to view further information](#)

Maiden Erlegh's Future Politicians Attend Civil Service Careers Seminar

On Friday 12 October, Years 9-13 students were given an insight into one of the most exciting and diverse careers on offer: working within the Civil Service. Showing impressive aspiration and ambition, 35 students opted to attend a Careers Seminar led by prominent Civil Servant, Adam Luke, to discover what this fast-paced and challenging career entails.

Using his own career journey as an engaging way in to the profession, Adam explained the role of the Civil Service as a neutral, non-party political body which is crucial to the successful and smooth running of the country. Adam outlined the incredible range of roles and responsibilities available within the service, dismissing the myth that all Civil Servants spend their time writing letters and reports. He explained how the Civil Service has changed over the last decade and how they are committed to recruiting those skilled in science, technology, engineering, maths, and marketing, in addition to their traditional focus on writing abilities. Adam was keen to stress that there is not a single path to being a Civil Servant and that those with university degrees, apprenticeships, and previous experience in other careers are all encouraged to apply to the wealth of positions.

The students were fascinated to hear about the incredible opportunities and experiences Adam has had over just two years of being a Civil Servant, including international travel, engaging with political leaders on a daily basis, and working within several government departments. The group were particularly interested to hear that Adam had achieved such success through his own determination and hard work, having come from an ordinary background and from a family in which he was the first person to attend university.

It was especially impressive to see so many students taking the opportunity to ask Adam questions about life as a Civil Servant, including how he managed to put his own political beliefs aside to work and act in a politically neutral way, how he has the confidence to talk to world leaders, and what activities he was involved with as a secondary school student in order to help him develop the skills he would need to succeed in the world of politics.

Adam was delighted with the reception he received, and praised the students who attended, commenting that, 'their questions were thoughtful, intelligent, and really showed how well they listened – it was a pleasure to share my experiences with them and give them an insight into what life is like as a Civil Servant'.



Civil Service

Thank you to all who attended and to Adam for providing such an invaluable seminar.



Community Arts Workshops & Courses Spring 2019

Evening Classes	Saturday classes	Young People
Adult Silver Jewellery Classes Monday 18:45-21:15 Tuesdays 18:45-21:15 (Join our waiting list) Stained Glass Life Drawing classes	Collage, paint & print still life. Acrylics- loose & lively landscapes. Acrylics & mixed media. Printing - drypoint and card cuts. Alcohol Inks. Open Access Printmaking. (First Saturday of every month)	Art Attack Saturdays School years 4-6 9:30-11:00 School years 7-9 11:30-13:30

www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk CLICK ON Community Arts

THE PEACOCK GALLERY



Lair of Layers
Paul Wheatman
2 - 21 March 2019



Our Planet
Year 8 students
2 - 8 February 2019

Maiden Erlegh School
Silverdale Road, Reading, RG6 7HS
0118 9262467
communityarts@maidenerleghschool.co.uk



Train to Teach evening

Thursday 29 November 2018 6.00 - 7.30pm

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 BTSAs.

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!



Further details can be found on our website www.berkshireteachingschoolalliance.co.uk or by contacting us via email teachingschool@maidenerleghschool.co.uk





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.



Welcome to the Jungle

On Wednesday 10 October, the A level drama students, in preparation for the live theatre section of their exam embarked on a journey to see a play just as thought provoking as reviews suggested.

The Jungle is a play written by Joe Robertson and Joe Murphy, founders of the Good Chance Theatre Company, and directed by Stephen Daldry and Justin Martin. It follows the lives of characters living in the Calais Jungle migrant camp and the struggles they endured whilst attempting to construct a better life.

A truly moving piece of theatre which sparked in depth discussions and ideas upon returning to school. A great example of how theatre can inspire. All students were engaged and entertained throughout making for a fantastic trip enjoyed by many.



Saharah App

“Saharah” is an app which allows users to post or receive anonymous comments. There is no way for the recipient to reply or to know who has sent the comment. This app has been around for a little while but can now be linked via Snapchat, which, of course, increases its availability to our young people. By its very nature, it is a potential vehicle for cyberbullying and anyone who hosts the app is making themselves vulnerable to nasty comments.

Our strong advice is that none of our young people should be using this app, either via Snapchat or as an independent app. We would encourage all parents to check their child’s Snapchat account to ensure that access to “Saharah” is disabled.

If you, or your son/daughter, have any concerns at any time about posts via this app, or via any social media platform, the red CEOP “report abuse” button is available via www.thinkuknow.co.uk. Snapchat has a support page where you can report any safety issues.

Instagram, Facebook and Twitter also have their own reporting mechanisms.

Further information and support for parents is available at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents.



Cyclists

If your child cycles to school please can we urge you to go and check that they have working lights on their bike. On these gloomy afternoons the light is fading fast by the time students are making their way home.

The majority of students wear dark clothing and are difficult for motorists to see. A set of lights could make the all the difference. There are some highly effective, easy to fit lights on the market which can be recharged using a USB cable:

[Example](#)

Musical.ly has a new name - TikTok (Safer Internet Centre)

The social network app Musical.ly has often given adults cause for concern, because of the way that children use it to generate and share their own short videos and lip sync to popular audio clips. The app has a new name and new features, and now includes live streaming. Although the app has an age-limit of 13 years old, in practice there will be younger children using it, and the content may not be suitable.

Profiles on TikTok are automatically set to public, so that any content you post can be seen by anyone within the app. There is also a Restricted Mode which can help to filter out inappropriate content and prevent the user from being able to start their own live streams.

You can find out more here: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/what-tiktok-looking-latest-lip-syncing-app>



Job opportunities with Maiden Erlegh Trust:

Teaching Assistants (required January 2019)

Join our team of talented, committed and diligent support staff, all of which are aligned in their passion for ensuring that all students receive a high quality education.

Chef Manager

Running a busy kitchen, ensuring our students receive varied and quality meals using the freshest of ingredients.

Examinations Invigilator Vacancies

Are you, or is anyone you know, interested in ad-hoc, part-time work at this school during our exams periods?

Please see the [vacancies page](#) on the school website for job descriptions and applications deadlines.

For further information, please contact:

recruitment@maidenerleghschool.co.uk

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 2018-2019

Autumn Term

5 September - 19 October 2018

****HALF TERM****

29 October - 20 December 2018

Professional Development Days -
(school closed to students)
Mon 3 & Tue 4 September 2018
Thursday 15 November 2018

Spring Term

7 January - 15 February 2019

****HALF TERM****

25 February - 5 April 2019

Professional Development Days -
(school closed to students)
Wednesday 23 January 2019

Summer Term

23 April - 24 May 2019
(Bank Holiday 6 May 2019)

****HALF TERM****

3 June - 24 July 2019

Professional Development Days -
(school closed to students)
Thursday 4 July 2019

FACILITIES HIRE



We are delighted to be able to offer our facilities for hire to our local community.
[Click here for further information.](#)

MA Maiden Erlegh School Parents' Association

We are just regular parents like yourselves. Come and join our committee and help us build a better school!

All parents welcome.

[Click here to view our website.](#)

ParentPay

[Click on the ParentPay logo to login and register your account.](#)

Any queries please email us at ParentPay@maidenerleghschool.co.uk



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