



THE GRIFFIN

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Welcome to our Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of The Griffin; our alumni newsletter. I have had the privilege to work at Maiden Erlegh School for nearly twelve years and have seen it blossom from an already highly respected school to one with an even stronger reputation across and beyond the Reading area. Maiden Erlegh School is exceptional because of the people who work and study here. The "Maiden Erlegh way" ensures we share high expectations of ourselves and others, whether for study or personal growth. Our motto "*qui veut peut*" sets a clear message that determination and perseverance, however challenging the situation, will help you get through and learn from the experience. Maiden Erlegh School students have gone on to achieve great things, locally and globally, and many have great adventures. We would like to showcase your stories to inspire current generations of Maiden Erlegh students.

Maiden Erlegh School has a loyal alumni and, because of the shared values and the fond memories students have of their time here, we have received many requests from former students to establish a formal alumni structure. We have therefore decided to launch our newsletter specifically tailored to you. This newsletter will keep you up to date with the exciting development of Maiden Erlegh School as part of the Maiden Erlegh Trust, and will also look at where former students are now. We would like to encourage our alumni to be involved within our school community and we look forward to hearing from you should you have any suggestions of how you would like to be involved.

Mary Davies
Executive Headteacher

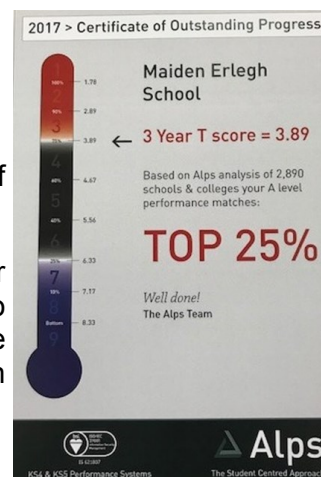




Awards Received

In March 2018 we received two awards which recognise the hard work of staff and students at Maiden Erlegh School.

The Alps 2017 Certificate of Outstanding Progress has been awarded to us for being in the top 25% of schools for our A level performance. We would like to thank our dedicated teaching staff who have put in countless hours to ensure the success of our students at A Level. Without this hard work achieving such awards would not be possible.



Maiden Erlegh School has also been recognised nationally for its excellent results in 2017 based on data from the Department of Education and Ofsted. This data was then analysed by SSAT (the Schools, Students and Teachers network). We were found to be included in the top performing secondary schools in the country, receiving two awards for being in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for attainment and progress. Thank you to staff and students for your continued dedication.



Young Carers Silver Award

At the end of 2017 Maiden Erlegh School was given a silver award for its work on making sure that students do not miss out on an education because they are young carers.

The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award.

Young carers are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member who has a physical disability, mental health issue or substance misuse issue. The 2011 Census statistics revealed that there are just over 166,000 young carers in England, but research reveals that this is just the tip of the iceberg. The true figure could be closer to 700,000 young carers in England, equivalent to 1 in 12 school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported.



This year alone we have provided lots of support to any students identified as young carers. In conjunction with providing help with their school work, young carers have been taught how to cook healthy recipes in order to help care for their family members. We are incredibly proud of these students as they continue to balance the pressures of home life with their academic studies. Thanks must also go to the members of staff that have helped to provide this additional support.



New Head Boy and Head Girl Appointed

Congratulations to Ben Cook and Rebecca Simpson for being appointed the new Head Boy and Head Girl. Together they will lead the Senior Team in addressing issues raised by the student body. Congratulations also to Joseph Allchurch and Halima Butt who were appointed Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. We wish you the best of luck in your new roles.



Ben Cook

After passing through the stages of becoming Head Boy, being offered such a role is honestly a true honour. I understand the challenges associated with the role but I'm dedicated and determined to work with the team to make a significant difference. We will be focusing on topics like mental health, LGBT and racial equality which all coincide with the objectives of the previous Senior Team. We have listened to each and every one of them and what they themselves had learnt throughout the year. We have taken this information on and I strongly believe that we will all make a difference benefiting every single individual at Maiden Erlegh School.

I'm excited and ready to work hard with the exceptional team we have which blends different skills and ideas making the new Senior Team a very strong one. We have lots of exciting ideas hoping to promote cohesion and equality throughout the school making everyone feel like part of a bigger community.



Rebecca Simpson

I am delighted to be appointed Head Girl of Maiden Erlegh this year and am very excited for the year ahead.

Over the course of this year I would like continue to create a positive environment and ensure every student is happy and comfortable at school. With our great Deputies and Senior Team, we'd like to raise more awareness for mental health, appreciate the range of cultures here at Maiden Erlegh and organise memorable events students will look back upon fondly.

Since being lucky enough to join the school in Year 12 I have been amazed by the welcoming atmosphere, supportive staff and cheerful students. I am very proud to be a student here at Maiden Erlegh and hope to reflect that to visitors and friends of the school during my time as Head Girl.





Open Evening

Wednesday 4 July 2018
6pm to 8pm

For parents and primary school pupils (current Year 5) moving to secondary school in September 2019

The evening will be an opportunity to visit the school and meet and talk to staff and students. There will be lots to do and see including:

- Subject displays
- Hands-on activities
- Drama and music performances
- Enrichment information
- Presentation by the Headteacher and students
- Tours of the school led by students

Presentations in the Main School Hall at 6.00pm and 7.30pm

For regular updates please follow us on Twitter @MaidenErleghSch
or visit our website www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk



Open Evening - 4 July

On Wednesday 4 July we are opening our doors to Year 5 pupils and their parents in preparation for their secondary school choices. The evening is a display of all that Maiden Erlegh School has to offer and will allow prospective parents and pupils to engage with the vast range of subjects that we have to offer here.

As a former student we would like to extend a warm welcome to you to join us on the evening between 6pm-8pm. We hope to see you there.

Expansion of Maiden Erlegh Trust

We are delighted to say that we are working very closely with the Interim Executive Board and Headteacher of Chiltern Edge School in Sonning Common with a view to welcoming them officially into our Trust on 1 August 2018.

Chiltern Edge School



After a period of time working with Chiltern Edge, through our Teaching School, and speaking to staff and students, we have got to know the school very well. We have been impressed by the leaders and other staff's commitment to work to developing the school, and improvements are already evident. We have been equally impressed by the dedication and loyalty of the parents and students who overwhelmingly support the school.

These are exciting times for the Trust and for all the schools involved. As with the opening of the new school in Reading, this venture will bring more opportunities for staff professional development (which in the past has enabled us to retain and promote colleagues) and it will enable us to work more efficiently. In the current climate of recruitment shortages and financial cutbacks, both of these things are vitally important to maintain the quality of provision which characterises Maiden Erlegh Trust schools. From 1 August 2018 this will take the Trust to a total of 4 schools, following on from previously welcoming Great Hollands Primary School in July 2017.



MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL

Tim Millikin

(2003)

I graduated from Maiden Erlegh School in 2003 before going to Lincoln University to study film production where I graduated with 2:1 in 2006. After university I worked for a number of television and film productions before being made redundant as a studio engineer in 2011. In 2011 I moved to live in Australia where I travelled and worked my way around the perimeter over two years whilst living in my camper van, this was my first immersive travel experience and gave me the opportunity to really see the country. I returned from Australia in 2013 and continued my passion for travel by working as a travel consultant in Reading for two years. After two years I had decided that a life behind a desk was not for me and I left my job to begin an adventure which would see me cycle my bicycle around the world.



I cycled through 39 countries and over 46,000km in three years. I only took planes across oceans and the rest of the way was cycled. I cycled over the Himalayas and the Andes mountain ranges along side the Atacama and Australian Outback. I was hit by a car in El Salvador but did not want to give up, and after just 2 and half weeks I was back on my bike and cycling!!

It was the best thing I have ever done and it is the perfect way to travel, with the bicycle being fast enough to move across countries but slow enough to

still be stopped by local people and take the small off road routes. I took my tent and stove and spent just £9000 in three years. This has given me love for the outdoors and self propelled travel and I am now looking forward to a career in adventure travel whilst I spend my time off writing a book about my travels.

Maiden Erlegh School gave me the education both academically and socially to grow and gave me the standing to be anything I wanted. This has seen me in good stead to change careers twice and pursue a life work balance which I truly believe in. One of my favourite memories from Maiden Erlegh is going away to the Tirabad Outdoor Centre in Wales, as it was so much fun being outdoors, making friends for life and giving me the skills to be able to cycle around the world.

Biking from Reading, England, to Reading, Pa.

On May 3, 2015, Tim Millikin set out to travel by bicycle from Reading, England, to Reading, Pa. His trip, which included a few sea crossings by boat and plane, covered 39 countries in three years, ending Wednesday at the Pagoda.



Source: Tim Millikin





Sports Personality Evening

It is with great pleasure that we extend an invitation to you to attend Maiden Erleigh's 10th annual Sports Personality Evening. The event will take place in the Sports Hall on **Thursday 12 July 2018**.

The purpose of this evening is to recognise and congratulate our many students that have been involved in competitive school sport this past year.



The Physical Education team have been continually impressed with the students' effort and overall commitment to their team/s and this is our way of recognising this.



Our evening will commence at 7pm in the Main Hall or the outside quad if the weather is good, where refreshments will be provided. From here we will make our way through the Hall of Fame in the Gymnasium and into the Sports Hall for the presentation of the various trophies and awards for the evening. Please note that the dress code for the evening is smart.

If you would like to attend tickets for this much anticipated event can be purchased at a cost of £6 per ticket and can be paid by cash via reception. Please email us to secure your place. We would particularly enjoy welcoming back any previous winners from past Sports Personality Evenings.

Gold and Silver Programme

About five years ago we started our Gold Programme for students in Years 10 and 11. The aims are to extend learning and thinking beyond lessons and to allow like-minded young people to exchange ideas and debate issues. It also means we start to discuss, at a much earlier stage, preparation for courses, universities and higher level apprenticeships.

The programme includes "thinking workshops" which go beyond the curriculum (e.g.: feminism in the works of Walt Disney), sessions targeted at GCSE grades 7+ but also sessions from past students (e.g.: on studying medicine), debates or access to lectures from the university. We also organise trips, including taking them to Miss Davies' old college, Sidney Sussex, at Cambridge.

The group was so popular that we started a Silver Programme about three years ago. This group focuses on developing skills and confidence as high level learners. Students work in groups and as individuals on a range of problems and activities.

The Gold+ Programme focuses on Oxbridge, medicine/veterinary science and law applications but increasingly now includes engineering, economics and also preparing for applications to competitive apprenticeships.

As a result, we are seeing our numbers of applicants for Oxbridge, medicine and law but also many other competitive courses increase. The results of programme participants are very strong and students are proud to be selected for each programme.

PROVISION FOR THE MOST ABLE



Student Profile

Every newsletter we would like to feature profiles on former students to share where they are now, along with any fond memories of their time at the school. If you would like to be featured please contact us. We would love to hear from you!

Keep your information up to date!

alumni@maidenerleghschool.co.uk

Want more information on anything you've read? Want to get involved in the school community? Get in touch!