



15 July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we come to the end of another challenging academic year, I wanted to thank you for all your support of your child's school. I cannot express how important it has been for colleagues to receive or hear your kind words of thanks and encouragement over recent months. Never before have they needed that as much.

Schools are very clearly focused on ensuring they can continue to support, encourage, and enthuse your children next year, building on the work they have already started this year.

I must commend your children on their resilience, hard work and cooperation. Of course, we must not underestimate the impact of the pandemic on children and young people, and the schools are very conscious of this in their planning. I can honestly say, however, that those I see in our schools are impressive in their resilience, care, and determination to not let this experience define them. For that reason, I refuse to use terms such as "lost generation", "falling behind", "held back". We will help and support them, but I am confident that they are committed to being the positive agents of their own success also.

Despite everything that has happened, we have also achieved great things e.g.:

- Schools have gained external accreditation for anti-bullying and equality work.
- As an organisation, Diversity & Inclusion Actions have made gains especially in terms of the curriculum and recruitment, and we devoted our Conference last January to this theme. There's more to do, of course, and we will pick up again in September.
- Our inclusive moral purpose can be seen in our work towards the September 2022 opening of [Oak Tree School](#) and the September 2021 opening of Maiden Erlegh School's Indigo ASD Resource Base as well as the STEPS programmes at Maiden Erlegh Reading. This is in addition to the work going on at Cranbury College to support some of the most vulnerable, but potential-filled youngsters (including at hospital) and the blossoming provision at Hamilton School (which will move to its new site next Spring).
- Work towards [River Academy](#) also continues.
- Our PSMSC curriculum has been reviewed from early years to sixth form, not least the Relationships and Sexual Health Education element which covers themes such as sexual abuse and cyber safety.
- From September we launch our new Maiden Erlegh Institute which will lead on teacher training, early careers framework support, school-to-school support, Behaviour Hub, Challenge Partners Hub and a wider professional development offer. This will enable us to work with and for, an even greater range of schools across the region.

It is important that we all make the most of the coming weeks. Whether you are heading abroad, going away in the UK or staying at home, I sincerely hope that you all enjoy a restful and happy summer.

Once again, a huge thank you.

Yours sincerely

Miss M Davies
Chief Executive Officer

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

CRANBURY COLLEGE

HOSPITAL TEACHING SERVICE

The Hospital Teaching Service at Cranbury College have continued to teach children on Dolphin and Lion Wards at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. They have continued teaching children on the wards throughout the pandemic and have shown excellent resilience and mental strength.

FAREWELL TO OUR YEAR 6'S

The Primary Team have said a sad farewell to their Year 6s who are moving on to their new schools in September. They had a wonderful picnic and every child was given their very own recipe book of all the things they had cooked with the staff at the Primary unit.

TAGS

The Secondary students have worked extremely hard this year to fulfil their TAGS and have spent the last couple of weeks finalising their next steps.

OUTREACH TEAMS

Our outreach teams have been working hard in mainstream secondary and primary schools in Reading and schools on the borders, supporting students who have been struggling at school.

GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

FAB FUNDRAISING

Amelia in Year 5 raised over £800 by making and selling keyrings. The money she raised was donated to Florence Nightingale House Hospice in Aylesbury as she wanted to support them and say thank you for the care they gave to her Grampy before he passed away earlier in the year.



MAGNIFICENT MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING

Skyla-Rose in Year 2 climbed 1345 metres up Ben Nevis, a feat which took five and a half hours! She practised around the house with her walking sticks and by visiting Swinley Forest in all different weathers with her family.

Previously, in July 2020, she took on Scafell Pike in the Lake District and had been due to climb Mount Snowdon last October, although this had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

HAMILTON SCHOOL

READING & WRITING SKILLS

The students at Hamilton School have been making excellent progress in their reading and writing skills.

FISHING LAKE TRIPS

Regular visits to the fishing lake have helped with student health and well-being.



COOKING LESSONS

Cooking has been one of the most popular lessons this year with some amazing smells coming out of the cooking room.



WELLBEING DAYS

We have had several Well-being days that have been very successful and provided the students with a range of activities and experiences they have not had before.

MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE

It has been another excellent term at MECE and some highlights have included:

A SPARK OF INSPIRATION

Theo R in Year 8 had a poem selected for publication in a Young Writers anthology, 'Imagine - A Spark of Inspiration' and won £100 after being selected as a winner from more than 9500 entries.



YEAR 10 CAREER PROGRAMME

An excellent three-day programme of Year 10 careers activities including talks from Henley college, Maiden Erlegh Sixth Form, Reading College and apprenticeship providers alongside doing their own personal research and investigation. Subsequently three Year 10s participated in a prestigious law work experience day having applied for this course during their career days at school.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We have delivered some excellent assemblies in the last few weeks with a focus on Diversity and Inclusion including assemblies celebrating Pride month and raising awareness of the Windrush generation.

BRILLIANT CLUB

Another tranche of our most able students have completed their Brilliant Club essays this time very pertinently on disease control.

LEAVERS DAY

Said goodbye to our Year 11s with an excellent Leavers Day as they go off to destinations far and wide. The process of submitting all of their examination grades was also completed without a hitch.



MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL IN READING

Some highlights of the term from MER:

“BEST OF BOOKS” WEEK

Range of activities and challenges to encourage and promote reading across the school. ‘Drop Everything’ and ‘Read’ saw the whole school reading together at the same time, and students have been clocking up reading minutes. There are also amazing new door displays around departments, celebrating books and reading.



ART, DESIGN AND PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWCASE

We held a special exhibition to display the amazing GCSE work from the Art and design departments to other students, staff and parents (our first opportunity to invite parents into the building since COVID restrictions).



YEAR 7 ZOOLOGY VISIT

The Science team arranged for some real-life small animals to visit school as the culmination of the Year 7 project to design suitable habitats.



VIRTUAL INDUCTION

Delighted to welcome the new students and their parents who will be joining the school in September. Our virtual events were well attended and we look forward to seeing them all in real life soon.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Our exciting character education programme is now up and running with 37 Year 9 students attending weekly sessions. All have now qualified for their bronze award!



YOUNG INTERPRETERS PROGRAMME

We have been training up 12 bi-lingual students to help and assist as “young interpreters” when we have new students arrive in school with weak English skills. They will be offering mentoring and assistance as part of our “Immersion Plus” strategy in supporting EAL students in the school.



NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

13x Year 10s have been appointed to the new and reformed student leadership team. Following their training day they will be leading aspects on the life of the school and assisting staff to improve and enhance our learning community.

OPERATION EAGLE “SURGE” RESPONSE

In early June, the school supported and contributed to the Surge testing programme in our local area. We ensured that a 1000 PCR tests were distributed to staff and students took the opportunity to further educate our students and parents on the purpose for the programme and the importance of participating to keep our community safe.

DAME KELLY HOLMES TRUST MENTORING PROGRAMME

We were very proud that three (out of 100 students selected nationally) of our students were invited onto this prestigious “unlocking potential” mentoring programme (only 100 students invited nationally). These students, all of whom have overcome huge hurdles in their life have done so well and completed the course with tremendous success.

SCHOOLS STREET

It is great news that the school street application from ourselves, UTC Reading and Alfred Sutton Primary school has been successful and has the support of Reading Borough Council. During a 6-month trial, the very busy Crescent Road will be closed to traffic twice a day to improve safety for our students as they walk to and from school. Depending on our ability to recruit volunteer marshals (let us know if you can help!), we hope the scheme will go live after the October half term.



STAFFING

End of the school year means we say goodbye to a small number of staffs who are moving onto promotions, we are also delighted that we have successfully recruited some great new members to the team and are fully staffed for September with specialist teachers in every curriculum team and strong experience and expertise across every team in the school.

PAUL HANNAFORD

We were pleased to have a visit to school from ex-gang member and addict Paul Hannaford. Paul spoke to students about his life and experiences and the dangers of drugs and knife crime. Hard hitting stuff, but a very important message for all.

YEAR 11 GRADUATION DAY

Following their hard work, tenacity and dedication through their final formal school assessments, we celebrated with Year 11 the end of their time with us. We held a terrific graduation event complete with farewell speeches, (embarrassing) pictures and even a confetti canon! We are delighted that all of our students have secured offers and places for their further education and training.



MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL

INDIGO RESOURCE BASE

The Indigo Resource Base is well on track to be ready for the new students in Year 7, offering a hub for those who need more support. We are excited about this next stage of our inclusive journey and cannot wait to meet the founder students of Indigo!



DRUGS DOG

As part of our proactive measures against drugs, Bruce from K9 Deployment came and visited us. I am pleased to announce that no drugs were detected on site and the students loved meeting Bruce!

SPORTS DAY

COVID will not stop us running one of the most popular events in the school calendar! Whilst our usual venue, Palmer Park, is unable to accommodate us, we are going back to our roots and hosting year groups sports days on the school field. We cannot wait to see which house comes out on top!

POSH TOGS

Year 11/Year 13 leaving – It was such a shame that we had to move the last days for our Year 11 and 13s but we made sure they could have a final day to remember. Year 11 had a Posh Togs day where they came to school in their finest clothes and had food and laughter with the friends they have spent 5 years with. Year 13 had a great day with awards, speeches and food. Both year groups have been amazing this year despite all of the turmoil!

PASTORAL DAY

On Tuesday 6th July, all students took part in Pastoral Day at Maiden Erlegh School, a vital part of their PSMSC programme. This covered topics including: e-Safety, Drugs and Alcohol Awareness, Sex and Relationships and Mental Health.

The aim being to equip our students with age appropriate information so they can make positive choices and keep themselves safe. They can debate different viewpoints on subjects through the day and know how to access support for them and their friends, should they need it.

Mental Health



Team Building!

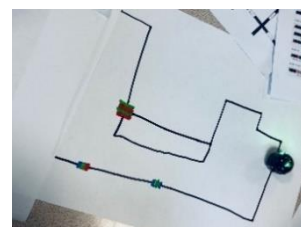


Beer Goggles!

YEAR 7 STEAM DAY

On Friday 2 July students in Year 7 participated in a carousel-style schedule of 4 STEAM-related activities. A range of innovative and interactive activities were designed to allow students to learn about STEAM subjects and potential career pathways. Students engaged with an Escape Room, an Ozobots Challenge, a virtual Forensic 'Bin it, don't block it' activity and a Horizon Scanning activity to encourage young people to consider the future needs of society in terms of technological change and how this could shape what will happen in the future.

We thank Thames Water, Thales and Covea Insurance for hosting a hugely successful day. The feedback received from students has been overwhelmingly positive.



YEAR 9 VIRTUAL CAREERS INSPIRATION DAY



On Wednesday 7 July students in Year 9 took part in a Virtual Careers Inspiration Day at school. The day was designed to provide students with a valuable insight into a range of careers within 6 different sectors and industries and to support them in considering and planning for their next steps, in particular the Year 10 Work Shadow Day, the Year 11 Mock Employer-led Interview Day, and beyond.



Year 9 students produced some fantastic work and I know they found the activities extremely useful when considering possible future career destinations. They were a credit to the school.