

Trust News



MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

December 2023



CEO Welcome



Aiming High

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the excellent outcomes achieved by our team over the last academic year. Outcomes for our children and young people are a direct result of their own endeavour and the skill and quality of our staff.

Particularly pleasing is that outcomes at Great Hollands Primary School placed them in the top 7% of schools in the country (top 1% for mathematics and top 2% for reading progress), and GCSE outcomes at Maiden Erlegh School placed it in the top 50 state schools in the country. We saw really strong progress across all our schools, and I am proud of our whole staff community but also of our young people for always aiming high!

Being Inclusive

In September we were delighted to be joined by Mary Davies MBE, along with other dignitaries and local representatives to formally open Oak Tree School, our new special school. In addition, I was privileged to officially open our Indigo Resource Hub at Maiden Erlegh School with local representatives and also our MP! 'Being Inclusive' is a core value of our Trust and I am hugely impressed by how this is being lived out across our organisation.



Working Together

As I shared last week our Trust community has grown further this term, with Birch Hill Primary School and Nursery in Bracknell joining us from 1 December and in so doing formally establishing our Primary Hub with Great Hollands Primary School. A very warm welcome to our Birch Hill community and I hope you enjoy this newsletter.



BIRCH HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY
Learn, Believe, Achieve Together

At the time of writing, I am looking forward to the final few weeks of term knowing these will be busy weeks in our schools. Whether it is curating nativity plays, conducting Christmas concerts or compèring Presentation Evenings, it is a real privilege for me to visit our schools in action and see first-hand the brilliant work our staff do and how much our children and young people love their school.



As the term draws to a close and the festive season is nearly upon us, I reflect with pride on what has been an incredibly busy and successful term. Please enjoy the school contributions below but for now I wish you all a healthy and happy holiday period.



Jonathon Peck
Chief Executive Officer



EDE Reflection



One of our Trust core values is to “Work together”. Schools are human organisations and human beings are “socially hardwired” to work together because we can achieve so much more than working on our own. It sometimes takes hard work and a deliberate choice to collaborate, but the results are invariably better when we do.

Through collaboration we can create a rich tapestry of educational experiences, sharing best practice, resources, and innovative ideas whether that is within our school communities or between the schools within the Trust. I have been very encouraged over recent months to see the ideal of deliberate collaboration becoming an increasing reality across our schools.



Aim high



Be inclusive



Work together

Collaboration also lies at the heart of the education process. Learning happens in the interplay and interaction between teacher and child; the skilled professional identifying how to anchor new knowledge and skills and then, following the feedback from the pupil, building on, and extending this. It's why our schools focus so much time on developing a strong ethos around learning behaviours. If a child doesn't want to collaborate in the process of learning... I'm afraid it just won't happen! It is also why strong relationships between adults and children are so important. In fact, educational research suggests that a positive teacher-student relationship is the single biggest factor in a child's academic achievement; more important even than a teacher's subject knowledge.



Finally, we all understand the importance of working together with, you, our parent community. We work hard in our schools to communicate with you regularly, informing you about your child's progress, challenges, and achievements because we understand that this empowers you to actively contribute to your child's educational development. Similarly, our schools want to hear from parents about concerns, encouragements or any information which may help us to provide the highest quality care and nurture for your children. Please never hesitate to get in touch if you need to.

As we celebrate the achievements across our family of schools, I hope you detect a collaborative spirit that propels us forward. Together, we are not just staff, parents and children. We are a community dedicated to working together in the pursuit of learning and personal growth.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a very “collaborative” New Year!



Andy Johnson
Executive Director of Education

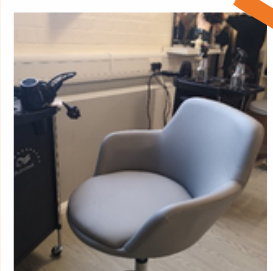
Cranbury College



The students have had a positive start to this academic year, with the secondary site having implemented a new school uniform – this has really supported the positive atmosphere in the school.



We have revamped our curriculum offer for this academic year and students have been enjoying the new vocational courses, Hair and The Duke of Edinburgh Award. We have seen students fully involved in these courses, painting school walls as part of trades, and some fantastic work in the salon!



We have received a very positive review of the college in the recent Challenge Partners consultancy visit and it is pleasing to see the development and hard work of all being recognised. Finally, to support each other within our sector of Special and Alternative Provision, we have developed a ‘Special and AP’ hub to support staff in sharing resources and networking to learn from each other. This has been a great success so far, and we look forward to continuing this work.



Birch Hill Primary School



We have had an exciting and busy term. Some of our Year 6 children had an amazing opportunity to perform on stage in the West End this term.

We were invited to be part of the Shakespeare in School Gala Awards evening at the Criterion Theatre in Piccadilly. This followed on from their brilliant performances of Much Ado About Nothing and Romeo and Juliet at The Exchange Theatre in Twickenham where they were confident, articulate, and really owned the stage!

Other events have included Year 4 visiting Oxford Castle to learn all about Crime & Punishment and Year 5 visiting Upton Court to learn about the Greeks. Other enrichment activities have included a Reptile visit, Cookery Club, and a visit from the Mayor for a winner in her Christmas card competition.



Hamilton School



We are very proud of the start our students have made to this academic year at Hamilton. Looking smart and unified in their new hoodies, they have thrown themselves into a multitude of activities.

A particular highlight this term has been the opening of our Forest School provision. The students have learnt how to safely light fires, incorporating a variety of areas across the curriculum in doing so and demonstrating perseverance, growing confidence and ultimately pride in their achievements. We have also opened a library, from which students may borrow books to take home, encouraging a love of learning and escape into stories.



Great Hollands Primary School



We are extremely proud to share the latest results for KS2 progress and attainment. GHPS is now placed within the top 1% of schools for pupil progress in **maths** and the top 2% for pupil progress in **reading**.

We are also placed within the top 5% of schools for pupil attainment in higher level **English grammar, punctuation and spelling** and the top 7% and 8% for higher level **reading and maths** attainment, respectively.

We have had an incredibly busy start to the year at GHPS with many events including our EYFS Harvest performance, which helped gather a terrific 76kg of food donations for the local food bank charity and our fantastic family fireworks display, organised by the PTA.

Rehearsals are now in full swing for the EYFS and KS1 Christmas nativity performances which are always extremely popular with our families. We are looking forward to some GREAT performances!



Following a staff event, our students had the idea of hosting their own Macmillan Coffee Morning (and raising upward of £60!) and some even brought in their own homemade cakes to offer! We are also welcoming in residents from a local care home each month for tea and cake. It has been such a delight to see the students thinking of and interacting with those outside their peer groups in such a positive and approachable way.



Our Year 11 students have also undertaken work experience this November, in fields ranging from customer service to logistics. Having the opportunity to experience the world of work will be invaluable in keeping and guiding their focus as they prepare for their next step.



Maiden Erlegh Reading



The autumn term has been a very busy and successful one at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading.

Our enrichment programme has continued to flourish with a range of clubs and activities provided, this included a very successful trip to the Williams Formula 1 Headquarters. Our debating club continues to grow in popularity and will take part in the secondary Trust debating event in the summer term. Auditions have also been completed for Aladdin, which is our main school production this year.



We were delighted with the process and the outcome of our Ofsted Inspection in September; the report captured our inclusive ethos built around strong relationships between students and staff.



And finally, during a time of conflict and uncertainty across the world, it was a proud moment to see the respect and reverence shown by our community during our Remembrance service on November 10th.

Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge



The term has continued apace at MECE and we are incredibly proud of our students and all of their achievements. Henry, Ben and Gabi (below) personify the MECE team and aspiration for success.



We are really proud of our Year 7 girls' sports teams who are tearing things up at the moment. Victories in football over Wallingford School and Langtree School confirm this team as an outstanding group of players. This is supported by their recent second place in the South Oxfordshire County Cross Country Championships.

We are also really excited by our latest contingent of Duke of Edinburgh students who have just started the exciting journey to receiving their Bronze Award. Over 50 students have signed up and will take part in their range of volunteering, physical activities, learning new skills and the expedition next summer.

Lastly, we were delighted with the huge levels of interest in MECE over the course of 8 open mornings and an open evening. Things look incredibly positive for another full set of Year 7 students next year.

Maiden Erlegh School



Maiden Erlegh School are thrilled to share that we achieved a remarkable distinction in the International Eco-Schools Award. This recognition is a testament to our collective efforts in promoting sustainability, environmental awareness, and eco-friendly practices within our school community.

Through initiatives such as recycling programmes and climate change projects, we have not only met but exceeded the standards of this award. We are thoroughly proud of our Eco-Club for championing this award.



We are also delighted to announce that our school is among the Top 50 schools in England for our Progress 8 score of 1.09. This accomplishment reflects our commitment to student development and academic success. Another testament to students, parents, and staff alike.



Maiden Erlegh school among top 50 in England when it comes to Progress 8. Find out more [HERE](#).



Oak Tree School



We have had a very successful term opening Oak Tree School.

All students have successfully transitioned into school attending their lessons. All curriculum pathways have been appropriately implemented and we are able to see the positive impact it has had on our students in the short time they have been here!



It is lovely to see the students developing their independence going out in the community and generalising their learning into real life settings. Our secondary students are now able to independently go to Sainsburys using their own shopping list, using the correct money and buy the appropriate ingredients needed for their food tech lesson or breakfast club.



The students have enjoyed attending events at Addington School - getting to know their local community.

We are now getting ready for our Christmas nativity play and Christmas secondary performance which the students are very excited to show to their parents.

River Academy



The autumn term has been extremely exciting for the River Academy project team. In September we held an open event for perspective families and despite the adverse weather conditions on the day, around 400 families attended this event to hear from the Headteacher and talk to staff from other Trust schools about our vision for River Academy.

Construction on site, as you can see from the photograph, has also progressed very well and is currently slightly ahead of schedule which is very pleasing. **On 24 January 2024 (5:00pm-7:00pm), we will be hosting a 'Recruitment Event'** at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading and would love to hear from anyone interested in working at River Academy (or any of our other Trust schools). More information about this event can be found on our website.



Maiden Erlegh Institute



MEI has had a busy term delivering a variety of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses. **MEI Manager, Shazia Nawaz, attended the 'Developing yourself as a leader' course.**

"I was looking for a course to develop as a leader and knew that this course was right for me. I learned about establishing my leadership values, developing emotional intelligence and resilience, and how to inspire and influence others.



The course presenters were incredibly knowledgeable and inspired me to think about my leadership journey. CPD opportunities such as these, allow you the chance to step back from your daily responsibilities, examine your organisation, and to think about your future goals.

I feel more confident managing and inspiring my team and I can complete projects efficiently and on schedule."

Recruitment Event



We are holding a recruitment event on **Wednesday 24 January 2024 between 5.00pm - 7.00pm** for a variety of positions (teaching and support) that are currently available across Maiden Erlegh Trust. The event will also be an opportunity to speak with staff about the **opportunities available at our new school, River Academy** which opens its door for the first time in September 2024.

If you would like to come and speak with staff about what Maiden Erlegh Trust can offer, please come along to this event which will take place at: **Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, 81 Crescent Road, Reading, RG1 5SL.**

Please visit our vacancies page **HERE**.

