



23 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

In some ways it has been a very long half term, in others it feels as though it has flown by. I am very grateful for the staff and pupils/students we have across the Trust, as they have ensured things have gone as smoothly as possible. It is remarkable and a testament to their strength of character I believe.

I must also congratulate all the new pupils and students, from Nursery and Reception to Year 7 and Year 12 as well as those who have joined our schools in other year groups. Similarly, I must congratulate all our new staff. They have all settled in so well and have certainly made a fantastic first impression.

There is much to celebrate from this term, in addition to “COVID-coping”.

It is frustrating I know that we cannot offer our full enrichment programmes, but safety first! Schools are, however, finding creative ways to maintain as many of the usual routines and events safely – whether it be sports activities, peripatetic music lessons, revision programmes etc. We know that the pupils and students want that routine and “normality” - they are grateful for the opportunities we can offer and are supporting staff with these activities by joining in.

There have been some excellent virtual open evenings/events, and parents’ and information evenings. These have showcased the creativity and ingenuity of colleagues across the Trust, and give a really positive insight into what each school is like. I have put the links in the school sections below and I urge you to have a look.

For staff, there have been examples of powerful professional development sessions in all of the schools across the Trust. Some have been in-house but most have been virtual – we are all learning how to make the most of the various meeting platforms, not least to remember to un-mute! We are also developing our own professional development podcast (METPOD) with the help and energy of Miss Bateman. Two episodes have been recorded so far, and we will be building up a bank of them on all sorts of topics. Colleagues have also been (virtually) participating in regional and national programmes e.g.: I am part of a Trust Leaders’ network and others have been involved in PIXL, and we now have three colleagues who are Fellows of the National College of Teaching.

As I have mentioned previously, we have committed to implementing some concrete actions on the theme of Diversity and Inclusion. Some are new initiatives and some to develop further our existing work e.g.:

- We have a cross-Trust group looking at bias and representation in the curriculum and cross-subject activities (e.g.: Careers).
- We are reviewing our recruitment procedures and language to encourage more diversity, especially in leadership and governance roles.

- During the next half term our school councils will discuss diversity and inclusion. They will actively seek input from all children so that everyone's voice is heard.
- We are looking at our use of images and role models to ensure there is balance reflective of the wider community.
- Mr Johnson is currently working on our 2021 MET Professional Development (virtual) Conference and this will have the theme of diversity and inclusion running through the programme.

The schools are currently celebrating Black History month. In addition to tutor and class activities, and show-casing Black figures who have influenced different subjects or parts of history, two examples of activities are a Black History timeline display at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge and an Artists of Colour display at Maiden Erlegh School.

There are a range of other pieces of work also which will develop over time. Thank you to all of the staff, Local Advisory Board members and Trustees who are volunteering to get involved with these actions.

Yours sincerely



Mary Davies  
Chief Executive Officer

# NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

## GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

[Virtual Open Event video.](#)

GHPS settled back in to school very well and adjusted to new routines.

- 26 September - 4 October the children participated in the virtual Henley Children's Literary Festival – Each year group enjoyed a different event, from 'The Tiger who came to Tea' storytelling for Reception children, to Katherine Rundell for Years 5/6.
- Year 5/6 have blended very well as a new phase and have been studying the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar, linking in with their science topic this term looking at evolution, adaptation and classification.
- The newest members of the school have had a very exciting time. Reception children have been learning about autumn and the different colours and changes it brings. They have found out about hedgehogs hibernating, although they did not find any on their autumn walk around the school!
- They have also been finding out about Harvest and the foods we eat and have made bread, vegetable soup and jam sandwiches!
- After reading the story of 'The Gingerbread Man' they've also had a go at making their own gingerbread people. What a busy half term!



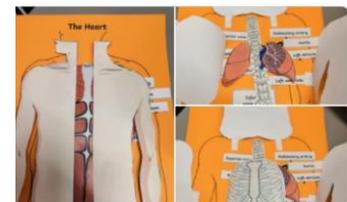
## CRANBURY COLLEGE

Cranbury College has already made a huge impact on the Trust and we are learning so much from them. It is inspirational to see how they nurture and inspire the pupils and students, some in their hospital beds, to learn and enjoy learning. Some examples are:

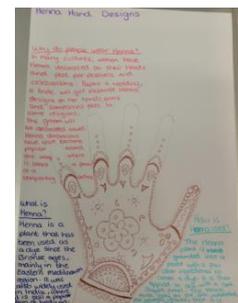
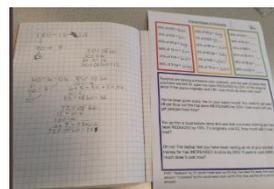
Learning about different festivals



Science, Technology, Maths are going strong



There is also a lot of work going on learning to take care of themselves and others, and preparing for their futures



## HAMILTON SCHOOL

### [School Transition video.](#)

The school has been working hard to support students settle back to school and is focusing on developing both the academic and personal development curriculum pathways. Also new year, new uniform – and don't they look smart!

The new gym has opened up to support Health & Fitness.

The new creative arts programme includes strands from drama, music and art and design.

The school is working with our Trust Careers lead to develop its [Careers Education programme.](#)



## MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL

### [Virtual Open Evening resources](#)

We have also been running virtual tours for Years 7 and 12, which have been ongoing and been very well received.

The school has been shortlisted for the [Times Educational Supplement Secondary School of the Year.](#)

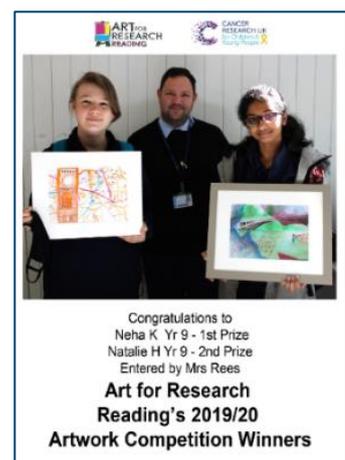
We will find out the final result in November but we are already hugely proud of the staff and students at the school for getting this far.

This year we have 25 Year 13 students applying for Oxbridge and/or medicine/law.

We are pleased to announce the reopening of P Block, following our floods last year before lockdown.

26 September was the European Day of Languages and the MFL Team received over 50 entries.

*The winning entries are below:*



<b>First place</b> <i>Christian B</i> "Language - El Idioma"	<b>Joint Second place</b> <i>Lucy W &amp; Thomas G</i> "German culture" – " Learning Languages online"	<b>Third place</b> <i>Henry O H</i> "No Peering Here"

## MAIDEN ERLEGH READING

### [Virtual Open Evening resources.](#)

The arts are extremely important in all our schools so we must congratulate the students involved in the submission to the Hold Still project at the National Portrait Gallery which was selected by the Duchess of Cambridge to be one of only 100 images (out of 31000 entries) for a digital gallery.

The school has also been designated as a “Learn Equality, Live Equal” (LELE) school by the Anti-Bullying Alliance for its work to raise awareness of issues relating to homophobic, bi-phobic and transphobic bullying. This is part of a wider commitment to diversity and inclusion at this school and across the Trust.

Also, in the spirit of inclusion, through the Senior Student Charity Committee, the school will be supporting two local charities which support the homeless: Launchpad and CIRDIC.

## MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE

This has been a brilliant half-term at MECE. We have seen great strides forwards in teaching and learning, behaviour and attendance. Visitors have unanimously supported the view that the school is a transformed learning environment, with calm purposeful classes focused on progress and stretch and challenge. Our half-term’s attendance of 95.5% supports the fact that our student body has a real desire to be in school also.

We have worked incredibly hard on building the positives with our relaunched House system, the Attitude of Gratitude slips for staff, lots of outreach work and visits to local primary schools and a very purposeful and effective school council. We have also worked hard on raising expectations with a real focus on reading through our Tutor Reading Scheme, having the correct equipment to study through our Tools for Learning focus and a big push on knowledge retrieval in each lesson

It has been a huge shame that we cannot welcome parents and prospective students into school at the moment as the school has grown so much and is a very exciting and purposeful environment. On the positive side, the [virtual open evening](#) format, ensures that there are videos on the website for all to see which have been very well received by our prospective parents. We will continue to build these relationships through a range of outreach workshops in the next few months to show our future students what wonderful opportunities for learning exist at MECE.

## BERKSHIRE TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Our efforts continue in recruiting high quality trainees for the school direct programme and to support this, we are holding a virtual Train to Teach information evening on **Thursday 26 November 18:00 – 19:00**. We wish to invite you to our virtual evening which will include a presentation from Rob Buck, Director of the Teaching School and Q&A session. The presentation will cover the different routes into teacher training, funding, submitting a successful application and what a career as a teacher is really like

To sign up, please book [here](#).



**BERKSHIRE TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE**  
Are you thinking about kick-starting an exciting new career in teaching?

**TRAIN TO TEACH VIRTUAL EVENING**  
Thursday 26 November 2020 18:00 – 19:00

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.

Due to Covid we are running the event virtually. The event will include a presentation from the Director of the Teaching School and Q&A session.

We work with the University of Reading to provide high quality training and support that raises our high and our schools often retain trainees through to MQF and beyond.

Maiden Erlegh is an 'Outstanding' school and collaborates with a variety of schools within the Alliance. You will train alongside outstanding teachers and gain excellent professional development.

All trainees must hold an undergraduate degree 2:2 or above and GCSE Maths C and English C. Primary trainees also require a GCSE Science C.

[Click here to book](#)

Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road, Earley, RG6 7HS  
mailto:train@berkshireschools.co.uk  
www.berkshireschools.co.uk

in partnership with the Institute of Education  
University of Reading

@berkshiresa 018 926 2467