



MEI NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022



As we approach the end of a very busy term I would like to take this opportunity to reflect upon the work we have carried out since September. In collaboration with TSH Berkshire, we now have two new clusters of Year 1 Early Career Teachers and a cohort in Year 2, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Early Career Teachers, Mentors, Induction Tutors and Lead and Specialist Facilitators for their hard work. We continue to widen our School Direct Programme to offer the Primary School Direct route from September 2023 – we have new strategic partnerships with Aldryngton and Jennett's Park Primary Schools as well as Great Hollands Primary School. We are currently busy setting up a number of School Direct interviews for schools across our Alliance and we have already made offers for Primary and Secondary courses, which is great news.

We have also strengthened our Continuous Professional Development offer for schools in and outside of Maiden Erlegh Trust. These are proving popular with an uptake of colleagues having signed up. Courses include Curriculum, Pastoral and Senior Leadership Development Programmes, Mental Health First Aid, SEND Development Programme and a Designated Safeguarding Course. We have also recently recruited a number of Trust Outreach and Improvement Ambassadors to support our school-to-school improvement work.

We continue to lead the Thames Valley Challenge Partners Hub, having now grown to a collaborative network of 20 schools ranging from primary, secondary, special and alternative provision. This academic year we will be focusing specifically on middle and senior leadership development, SEND and Disadvantaged, and staff wellbeing. We have also just completed another term as a successful Behaviour Hub lead – supporting local and regional schools in developing behaviour strategies and policies.

I wish everyone a restful Christmas break and look forward to seeing what the new year will bring.

Rob Buck

Director, Maiden Erlegh Institute

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COHORT

We welcomed our new cohort of School Direct and Reading University PGCE trainee teachers in September. Trainees joined Maiden Erlegh School and Maiden Erlegh School in Reading for placement A induction training.

We offered placements to ten trainees in seven different departments this term where they have gained practical classroom experience and undertaken academic study to gain knowledge and understanding to teach successfully.

The year has flown by and they are off to their second placements after Christmas, returning in February in readiness for their final teaching practice. They have all worked incredibly hard and done extremely well.



PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT

Our secondary trainees spent a day in local primary schools, to observe students and teachers in a primary setting.

Current trainee Will said, 'It was very interesting to see the differences between primary and secondary education.' Languages trainee Laura said 'I learned that consistency throughout year groups and subjects in teaching style, approach to literacy and numeracy and behaviour management makes a happy and effective learning environment.' The primary schools were impressed with our trainees and we would like to say thank you for being great hosts.

TRAIN TO TEACH INFORMATION EVENING

We hosted our first in-person Train to Teach information evening since 2019! We were impressed by how many people were interested in training to become future teachers.

Our presentation included information about routes into teaching and applying. We thought it would be a good idea for past trainees to talk about their journeys into teaching and current Early Career Teacher, Lauren did just that!

Headteacher of Hamilton School, a special school, Sarah Concannon talked about teaching in special schools.



If you are interested in training to teach or know someone who may be interested, please use the email below.

NEW SCHOOL DIRECT PARTNERS

MEI recruits School Direct teachers for a number of schools in Reading, Wokingham and Oxfordshire. As we continue to grow, we are delighted to welcome two new primary schools to the programme.

Aldryngton Primary School and Jennett's Park CE Primary School are the latest schools to join MEI and we are delighted to have them on board.



UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



As the newly appointed Director of Education at Maiden Erlegh Trust, it is not difficult to find many examples of excellence in our organisation. Over the last term I have had the privilege to visit each of our schools and settings – so varied and so diverse! Yet within each, I found the most fantastic children and young people and a team of hard-working committed colleagues who are steadfast in their determination to be their very best in the service of education.

The research is very clear; developing staff and the quality of their work has the most significant impact on educational outcomes for children and young people. That is why in September, we took the decision to enhance and extend the work of our Maiden Erlegh Institute, particularly in relation to staff development and training. Our staff are the most important resource we have and it is right that we do everything we can to support, nurture and develop expertise across our schools for the benefit of pupils and students. As a result, we have seen a huge increase in the numbers of colleagues participating in a range of professional development and learning opportunities.

We have also welcomed a new cohort into our teacher training programmes and have been delighted to welcome back colleagues who completed their training with us and who are now commencing their “early career” programme. Also, in terms of school partnership and support work, it has been an absolute privilege to work with partner schools through behaviour hubs, through challenge partners and through commissioned improvement work. It’s busy – but that’s OK as we want to be busy doing the things that align with our values; developing and delivering the highest standards of education across and within our schools, alongside an outward looking professional generosity where we learn as much as we give.

Andy Johnson
Executive Director of Education, Maiden Erlegh Trust

SENIOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Abi Russell, Head of Science at Cranbury College is looking to move into Senior Leadership, so she enrolled on the SLDP programme.

My passion lies with all things curriculum, teaching & learning, and I knew that this would be a fantastic opportunity to develop as a leader. The first session was led by Jon Peck, CEO Maiden Erlegh Trust. He shared his thoughts and values around leadership and I have found these sessions really valuable, allowing me to delve deeper into looking at the leader I want to be and developing as a leader within the Maiden Erlegh Trust.

Being given the opportunity to take part in CPD courses run by the Trust is an excellent development opportunity, and I would recommend the course.

Abi Russell
Head of Science Cranbury College

UPCOMING COURSES

Designated Safeguarding Lead

10 January 2023

Youth Mental Health First Aider

27 January and 03 February 2023

SEND Development Programme
Various dates

To book email
meioffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

EARLY CAREER TEACHER UPDATE

We continue with the Early Career Teachers Framework, in partnership with Teaching School Hub Berkshire this term, with both year 1 and year 2 cohorts. The programme is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and expertise of early career teachers with a two year package of high quality mentoring and training.

Early Career Framework (ECF) lead facilitator, Chloe has been really impressed with our ECTs.

I am delighted to be the Lead Facilitator for both our Year 1 clusters, comprised of ECTs from Maiden Erlegh School, Maiden Erlegh Reading, Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge, Blessed Hugh Faringdon, UTC Reading, Chiltern Way Academy, Theale Green, John Madejski Academy, and Reading Girls School. We have been excited to host two in-person training sessions for the first two modules at Maiden Erlegh School this term and an Online Learning Community session during which ECTs had the opportunity to discuss key questions relevant to their classroom practice and their experiences in their schools so far.

In all sessions so far, I have been thoroughly impressed by our ECTs willingness to contribute to discussions and share best practice with their peers. In particular, it has been fantastic to see ECTs not only sharing tips of their own, but asking for advice from other ECTs to support them in their developing practice. I look forward to continuing to work with the clusters over the two year programme.

Chloe Bateman
ECF Lead Facilitator and Teacher of History and Religion & Philosophy

