

MEI News

March 2023

Director Welcome



Since our last newsletter in December, Maiden Erlegh Institute continues to grow from strength to strength. We now have a number of new schools who have recently joined our Alliance network including Katesgrove Primary

School, Southcote Primary School, Ridgeway Primary School and Whitley Park Primary School – this is great news as we position ourselves as School Direct partners for both the Primary and Secondary training routes. The Trust is opening Oak Tree School in September 2023, a school for 150 learners with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for Autism Spectrum Conditions and associated complex needs, from Year 1 to Year 13. We are currently working with the University of Reading and our Alliance partners to also offer SEND trainee placements from September, which will be an exciting additional offer moving forward.

We are currently busy setting up a number of School Direct interviews for schools across our Alliance and continue to make offers for Primary and Secondary courses. Our accredited Designated Safeguarding Lead training and Mental Health First Aid courses are proving to be extremely popular, with new dates for both programmes taking place again after the Easter break. These courses further complement our current continuous professional learning offer including courses aimed at middle leader curriculum and pastoral development and senior leadership development. Our SEND development programme is also now in full swing with nearly 30 attendees. From September we will be adding to our existing offer by developing courses for HLTAs, classroom oracy, deputy headteacher and headteacher development, behaviour support and developing yourself as a leader.

We have just started developing relationships with Cohort 7 for our designated Behaviour Hub programme

and we are preparing for an exciting Inclusion Conference after Easter with national expert speakers on improving outcomes for disadvantaged young people and learners with SEND. We look forward to welcoming David Bartram and Marc Rowland in due course.

As we approach the end of a very busy spring term, we wish everyone a restful Easter break and look forward to what the summer term brings.

Rob Buck
Director of Maiden Erlegh Institute

Recruitment Event at Reading University

The MEI team were invited to Reading University's Get into Teaching Event, with the aim of boosting trainee teacher recruitment numbers. Our stall was busy, and we have already had follow-up interest.

Current Maiden Erlegh School Early Career Teacher (ECT), Lauren, talked to prospective applicants about her journey so far. "I found it extremely rewarding to talk to aspiring future teachers about my own experience within Maiden Erlegh Trust and enjoyed providing advice and answering questions."



Director of Education Update



Recently I have had the privilege to hear a number of national education leaders discussing the future of the teaching profession and how the education landscape may develop over the next few years.

Leora Cruddas, the Leader of the Confederation of Schools Trusts, challenges schools and trusts not just working “in” the system but “on” the system; taking responsibility to improve and ensure that we improve how the education system functions to achieve the very best for the children and families we serve.

Reflecting on what I have heard and what I know, continues to convince me that the real engine to develop the quality and effectiveness of schools is not to be found in government, Ofsted or other national bodies, but in school to school and trust to trust leadership and support. It is what Prof David Hargreaves called the “self-improving school system” – a system where we work together across schools and organisations to learn from one another, understand best practice in what we do and developing research informed approaches to improve outcomes for the children in our care. Such a system will never be established if schools exist as independent islands or organisations are inward looking. That is why we are committed to the notion that it is up to school-led organisations like Maiden Erlegh Trust and Maiden Erlegh Institute to take a leadership role in helping to shape the “system” for the better.

We are committed to being open, outward looking and professionally generous in everything we do. That is why we are excited about the many partnerships and networks we have formed, the many colleagues from an increasing number of schools and organisations who have participated in one of our growing number of development courses and the school improvement work we have invested across a diverse range of schools and settings. Through these partnerships we are not only working “on” that self-improving system now, but investing in its long term future.

Andy Johnson
Executive Director of Education

Courses Update



Please email us for details of upcoming courses.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ask a DSL what their role entails and they will tell you all the things you would expect...and then twice as many things you hadn't even thought of. This new MET course is CPD Accredited and covers Signs and Symptoms of Abuse and How to record and store information. This course has been designed to support new to role DSLs to explain the full range of responsibilities, including what OFSTED will want to know and what to expect at your first Child Protection Conference and has been very positively received by the first delegates to attend.



Mental Health First Aid

Our popular MHFA course took place last month, with delegates from across the trust coming together to increase their knowledge and understanding of mental health issues with particular reference to children and young people. Covering a whole range of topics, the course gives practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues as well as the confidence to reassure and support a young person in distress. The course is an interactive one with the group sharing their ideas and insights and whilst the subject matter was very serious, there was fun and laughter alongside.

Alison Walker
Director of Inclusion & Safeguarding



Apprenticeship Spotlight



Colleagues from across the Trust have enrolled on a variety of Apprenticeship programmes, allowing them to gain qualifications on the job.

In this issue, we talk to Megan Knight, current HR Assistant Apprentice.

What skills have you learnt?

I have learnt to network, build my confidence and approach my work in different ways.

What have you enjoyed?

The ability to balance work life with studying and learning new concepts.

What is your team like?

They have been incredible and extremely supportive as well as always being eager to help me in my work.

Would you recommend an apprenticeship?

Definitely! If you looking to learn and upskill, I would recommend an apprenticeship.

Do you have any tips?

Put any distractions e.g. a phone in a different room so you aren't distracted.

Start your assignment as soon as you are able to, it will be easier to write this up when the information is fresh in your mind.

Apprenticeships available in:

- Central Services
- Admin & Support Services
- Teaching & Learning
- Leadership & Management

Megan Knight
HR Assistant Apprentice

Follow us on Social Media...

For regular updates, upcoming courses, events and more, follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn.

@_MEInstitute



School Experience

MEI offers prospective applicants the opportunity to visit our schools to gain experience in the classroom before applying. Nebo joined the Science Department at Maiden Erlegh School this month. "The teachers are incredibly professional and share common values and thoughts towards the childrens' education and this is coherent in every lesson I observed. There is mutual respect between teachers and students, both inside and outside of the classroom. I thoroughly enjoyed my time, and hope to train with you."

If you are interested in gaining school experience, please email MEIOffice@maidenerleghtrust.org



MET PODCASTS



Our podcasts feature a diverse range of enthusiastic guests exploring a diverse range of issues related to Teaching and Learning, Curriculum, Pastoral matters, Leadership, Finance, and Central Services.

[CLICK HERE](#)

