

# MEI News

July 2023

## Director Welcome



Maiden Erlegh Institute has witnessed a rapid growth trajectory this year, where we have established new working relationships with external organisations and refined our areas of responsibility.

In preparation for the new academic year, we are pleased to offer 13 MEI-run continuous professional learning courses. Our accredited Designated Safeguarding Lead course and Mental Health First Aid course have proved to be very popular this year.

MEI has established relationships with four universities as a vehicle to recruit quality School Direct and PGCE trainees. We are working with 8 new Primary schools to recruit Primary School Direct trainees.

MEI has now delivered a full cycle of the Early Career Framework to Secondary Reading schools. Our Lead and Specialist Facilitators have done a sterling job in providing engaging training sessions to our Early Career Teachers.

The Thames Valley Challenge Partners Hub has grown from strength to strength, with new schools joining the Hub from September. Looking forward, MEI will also be working with Teaching School Hub Berkshire more closely as one of the new local Appropriate Body leads.

I would like to formally thank colleagues across the Trust schools and beyond who have supported our work – we are very grateful to you. I also would like to acknowledge the work of Shazia Nawaz, MEI Manager, and Jonathan Newton, ITT and ECF Coordinator, who have both played an integral role in our growth journey.

**Rob Buck**

Director Maiden Erlegh Institute

## Training Year Complete



I completed the School Direct programme this year. I am frequently asked why I chose to come into teaching as a mature student and my response is,

I want to make a difference and increase diversity in STEM subjects.

The training from the science department has been outstanding and I had an amazing mentor that motivated me every step of the way!

My advice to future trainee teachers would be to be organised, be determined, and take feedback positively so that you can develop into a better teacher.

I am excited about implementing everything I have learnt during my training, in my next journey as an Early Career Teacher at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading.

**Ashfia Ali**

Early Career Teacher

## ECT Induction

We recently welcomed our new Early Career Teachers from across the Maiden Erlegh Trust for their Induction Programme. Welcome aboard!



## Director of Education Update



This has truly been a year of expansion and growth at the Maiden Erlegh Institute. We have put the development of staff and our commitment to collaboration and partnership-working front and centre of our strategic trust priorities and MEI has never been stronger or more impactful in delivering on these priorities.

We have seen a huge expansion in the number of colleagues from both within and outside the Maiden Erlegh Trust schools accessing and benefitting from one of the many development courses and programmes on offer and the range of schools the MEI is working with to deliver school improvement support has grown and deep mutual relationships strengthened. This is important. We are in it for the long haul as we know that developing expertise and harnessing tangible collaboration are the best ways to strengthen the whole school system into the future and so to deliver ever improved outcomes for our children and young people.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those involved with MEI, and especially the core team for their forward facing, entrepreneurial and ambitious leadership. We look forward to further exciting developments next year.

**Andy Johnson**

Executive Director of Education

The ECT Framework is a valuable programme for the professional development of early career teachers but equally for the mentors. By sharing experiences, insights, and advice, we empower ECTs to navigate the challenges they face whilst fostering a supportive and collaborative teaching community.

**Gianluca Raso**

Head of Department (Spanish) and  
ECT Mentor



## Behaviour Hub Update

We continue with our Behaviour Hub work with Trusts and schools across the country, providing tailored support, training and advice to develop good behaviour, routines and structures in schools. Steph Bendall, Senior Deputy Headteacher & Senco and Behaviour Hub delivery partner for Maiden Erlegh Trust, attended a recent Networking session.

"The session focused on SEN and Alternative Provision and it was good to hear from experts who are shaping the policy centrally and informs our practice and planning for the future. There were a lot of questions from people who are implementing this on the ground and Behaviour Hubs is an ideal forum for central policy makers to gain opinions from practitioners implementing this on the ground and I can see that further development in this area would be beneficial, especially as we are advising others schools on how to implement all of this effectively."

**Steph Bendall**

Senior Deputy Headteacher & Senco

## Early Career Framework



As educators, we all understand the importance of continuous growth and support in the teaching profession.

When asked about what inspired me to work with Early Career Teachers (ECTs), my first thought is my passion for supporting colleagues and their love for teaching.

Having been a mentor for a variety of language teachers, I have found fulfilment in sharing my experiences and helping ECTs navigate the early stages of their careers.

My advice to new ECTs is to be kind to yourself and understand that growth takes time. Think of yourself as a role model for all students. We have the opportunity to shape the new generation of teachers.

Secondly, select a school that aligns with your expectations and values.

Choose an environment that provides the necessary support, resources, and possibilities for your career.



## 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 Annabelle Gehlot, Business Manager at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge.

### What skills have you learnt?

I have developed my skills as an independent learner through being disciplined with my course and completion deadlines. I have learnt about key legislation and how this applies to my role. This has been invaluable!

### What have you enjoyed?

Deepening my knowledge of a broad range of topics including finance, infrastructure and support services, HR, marketing and governance. This knowledge has helped me to upskill in my current role and has led to greater confidence in my job.

### Would you recommend an apprenticeship?

Yes, definitely! I have learnt so much through my apprenticeship and this has helped to make my first year as Business Manager at MECE a success. I would recommend thinking about the time commitment as I am completing the apprenticeship whilst learning a new job. It is a lot of work, but highly rewarding.

### Do you have any tips?

Consider how you learn best. There are different versions of apprenticeships available with different learning styles. Work out what suits you!

**Annabelle Gehlot**  
School Business Manager

#### Apprenticeships available in:

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

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## Upcoming Courses

- Curriculum Leadership Development Programme
- Pastoral Leadership Development Programme
- Senior Leadership Development Programme
- SEND Development
- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Developing Classroom Oracy
- Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- Developing Yourself as a Leader
- Aspiring DHT & HT
- Behaviour Support
- Developing A Mental Health Toolkit
- Alternative Provision Ready Package

**Booking via**  
MEIoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

## AO Teacher



Carrie Souch, an unqualified teacher from Kendrick School, joined Maiden Erlegh School for a placement as part of the Assessment Only route in to teaching.

"The Art Department made me feel really welcome. I have been teaching as an unqualified teacher for the past 2 years. I will now be able to enrol on the Assessment Only programme in September. Thank you to all staff for a fantastic experience."

**Carrie Souch**



## Careers Leader Professional Development Conference

Director of Maiden Erlegh Institute, Rob Buck and Chloe Bateman, Careers Ambassador of History Department, co-led a Careers Leader professional development course. The day included workshops to equip delegates with a range of tried and tested approaches to successfully fulfil the requirements of Gatsby Benchmarks.

Delegates were able to share knowledge, gain guidance on how to audit and review current practice and formulate actionable targets for their own settings.

With over 60 delegates across Berkshire in attendance, we look forward to hosting our next event!

