

MEI News

December 2023

Director Welcome



I write to you with an update of our work as we approach the end of another very busy term at Maiden Erlegh Institute. September saw the official launch of our People Development Curriculum for colleagues across all functional areas of the organisation.

This brochure signposts the rich and wide variety of career and professional development opportunities. This was launched in collaboration with our 14 continuous professional learning courses, ranging from oracy, behaviour support, HLTA, middle and senior leadership development and DSL and mental health – uptake for these courses continues to be strong, which is pleasing.

We have a number of colleagues taking full advantage of our apprenticeship-levy funding for relevant training opportunities, and a wide range of colleagues completing one of the National Professional Qualifications (NPQs).

We are pleased to have already recruited 5 Initial Teacher Trainees ready for September 2024, from a mixture of Primary and Secondary settings and have recently grown our Alliance partnership to now include The Forest School and Westwood Farm Primary School.

We are also working with our network of Thames Valley Challenge Partners schools to develop a robust Action Plan for the coming year. As a group of 22 like minded schools, we will be focusing on behaviour, attendance and oracy this year.

We wish you all a restful Christmas break and a happy new 2024!

Rob Buck
Director Maiden Erlegh Institute

Importance of CPD

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."

Shazia Nawaz
Maiden Erlegh Institute Manager



Executive Director of Education



One of our key areas of MEI work is our school improvement and partnership work. This is important to us as it is a reflection of our moral purpose as an organisation – to work in partnership and collaboration to support the whole system to improve for the benefit of the children and families we serve.

But as Bananarama and Fun Boy Three once sang, **“it aint what you do, it’s the way that you do it”**; school improvement work doesn’t have to be accusatory or judgemental but is about building constructive relationships and entering into open professional dialogue – to celebrate and validate achievements of schools and leaders. MEI offers this support through bespoke commissioning and long-term improvement partnerships, through our contributions to Challenge Partners Hub leadership, school and trust review activity, NLE work, NACE support, and via our Behaviour Hub leadership. It has been a busy term on this front, however it is a genuine privilege to work with a range of schools and settings.

It is often said that the best form of CPD is to visit another school and to learn from their practice. I know that all MEI colleagues involved in this aspect of our work would certainly agree – you really do get out as much as you put in. As the great Dylan Willam says, *“If we create a culture where every teacher (school) believe they need to improve not because they are not good enough but because they can be better, there is no limit to what we can achieve”. That’s our ethos and that is our experience.*

Andy Johnson
Executive Director of Education

Primary with SEN



I feel so lucky to have spent my first placement, as a Reading University PGCE Primary with SEN students, at Oak Tree School. All the staff have made me feel so welcome.

I have learnt so much from observing and being observed by experienced teachers and support staff. I have attended training sessions at the school, and found the phonics training particularly useful. I have gained valuable knowledge from staff, who work so hard to create a supportive, nurturing and adaptive new school.



I have really enjoyed getting to know all the children in my class! My biggest tip for any future teacher would be to build strong positive relationships with your students. It is so rewarding to co-plan and design lessons to engage and inspire each student individually.

Sadly, my placement at Oak Tree is coming to an end for now, but I look forward to returning in the summer term!

Hannah Scott
PGCE Student Teacher

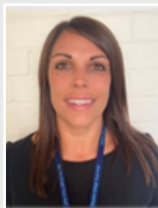
Behaviour Hub Team

The autumn term has been busy for the behaviour team, with a variety of school visits, networking events and open days. The team are working with three new schools, providing bespoke training and support to improve behaviour culture. We are now in our third year of the programme, and it has proved to be a valuable vehicle to share ideas, knowledge and expertise between schools.

As the programme progresses, we see the tangible benefits of the programme and going forward, it will be interesting to see how the schools and multi academy trusts (MATs) advance collaboratively post completion of the programme.



Behaviour Support Course



In November, colleagues from Primary, Secondary, Special and AP joined me to attend the Behaviour Support course. We explored what we mean by 'behaviour' and how we can build and sustain relationships with students and parents, with a focus on rebuilding relationships once they have been broken.

We then considered 'The Principles of the Classroom' and a range of ways we could de-escalate situations using narration and reframing. We reflected on our own practice and how we need to teach behaviours the same as we would teach the content of our curriculum. Zones of Regulation was introduced as one key method to support staff and students with fostering self-regulation and emotional control. We explored several examples where we identified good practice and how this could be implemented in our different settings. Our second approach was considering the use of Restorative Practice and we went through several scenarios where this could be used within all our schools. Finally, we considered Therapeutic Thinking: the theory behind it, the evidence of its impact and how we can be truly inclusive.

It was an absolute pleasure to work with professionals from a range of provisions throughout the day.

Charlotte Baggley
Assistant Headteacher

Apprenticeships

Are you looking to develop new skills?

Maiden Erlegh Institute has access to a fully funded Apprenticeship levy which allows staff to train and study for work-based qualifications, so that they can enhance their knowledge and become better equipped at doing what they do best.

We offer courses in:

- Admin and support
- Central services
- Teaching and learning
- Leadership and Management

By enrolling on an apprenticeship, colleagues gain job satisfaction and professional recognition by gaining a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships have no upper age limit and could lead to recognised professional qualifications.

To find out more, please email
meioffice@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Train to Teach Event

We recently held our Train to Teach event, providing prospective teacher training applicants the opportunity to get expert advice and talk to teachers.

Attendees were able to learn more about the Maiden Erlegh Institute partner schools, find out about funding and entry requirements and how we provide high quality experience for our trainees.



If you are interested in training to teach, please email
meioffice@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Upcoming Courses

- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Developing A Mental Health Toolkit
- Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- Behaviour Support Programme
- Developing Classroom Oracy
- Aspiring DHT & HT
- Alternative Provision Ready Package

Booking via MEoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

Follow us on Social Media...



@_MEInstitute

