



March 2021

“inspiring future generations of teachers”

Our second edition newsletter!

“Welcome to the second edition of the Berkshire Teaching School Alliance newsletter!

The Teaching School continues to successfully recruit high quality School Direct applicants for September 2021. In January 2021 our current School Direct and Reading University Core trainees left for their second placements and we welcomed new trainees to begin their (virtual) placements with our Trust schools. Following February half-term, our trainees returned from their placements and it has been wonderful being back on site and seeing our trainees and colleagues in person. The Teaching School has been busy hosting a variety of professional development opportunities, including Mental Health First Aid, Autism Awareness and Middle Leadership courses.” **Rob Buck, Director of Teaching School**



MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST CONFERENCE 2021 DIVERSE: INCLUSIVE 27 JANUARY 2021



On 27 January, Maiden Erlegh Trust held a staff conference day, whereby staff across the Trust participated in virtual online training and development courses. The overarching theme of the day was diversity and inclusion and Berkshire Teaching School Alliance arranged one of the key sessions, ‘Autism Awareness’. Working in collaboration with one of our Alliance partners, Heathermount School, a special school based in Ascot, the session covered understanding key behaviours in the classroom and intervention strategies to support students with autism. The session was extremely well received and fitted in perfectly with the theme of diversity and inclusion. *“The training gave staff an overall appreciation of the challenges of working with students with autism and some strategies for supporting them, with a particular emphasis on secondary girls with autism. It was part of a plan to make staff more aware of how they support students with neurodiversity challenges and was a very valuable sessions that was delivered by the Heathermount Team.”* Steph Bendall, Senior Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral, SENCo and Inclusion, Maiden Erlegh School

What is a Teaching School?

Teaching schools give successful schools an important role in the training and professional development of new teachers and qualified staff as well as contributing to the raising of standards through school-to-school support and Continuing Professional and Leadership Development. Maiden Erlegh School is a National Teaching School designated by the National College for Teaching and leadership.

Find out more by clicking the icons or visiting the website. www.berkshireteachingschoolalliance.co.uk

For more information about the Teaching School, follow us on social media or visit our website.

www.berkshireteachingschoolalliance.co.uk 0118 926 2467

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Berkshire TSA is part of Maiden Erlegh Trust. For more information please visit the Trust website: www.maidenerleghtrust.org/

Specialist Leader in Education (SLE) Q&A

Staff name : Sara Ellis

Title : Director of Standards and Continuous Improvement

School: Trust-wide

Quote from the staff member : *You are the most valuable resource that the children have.*



What is your role?

I work across all of the schools in the Trust as part of the School Improvement Team ensuring that MET good practice is shared consistently amongst them all. I work with the senior and middle leaders in the schools in regards to the Quality of Education that each school provides. In particular I assist them with their curriculum offer, sequencing of learning in subjects, accuracy and validity of assessment, Quality Assurance processes and monitoring pupil and student outcomes through the Standards Strategy and whatever else I can support them with.

What do you find most rewarding about your role? It's really interesting to go into all of the schools across the Trust and meet all the different leaders, to talk about learning, see it in action, and know that there are 3000 children in the Trust who have benefited from the high quality education that they receive on a daily basis. That for some children the schools are the safe places with consistent routines and boundaries.

Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today? When moving out of my family home, my mother gave me some of my school books that she had saved. When I was 5 I completed a topic called "All about me" where I was asked about my future job. I wrote that when I grew up "I wanted to be a teacher so that I could stick things on the wall like Miss Cowell."

What challenges did you initially face when you became a teacher? When I joined Maiden Erlegh School as a Geography NQT I joined a school with very established staff, in fact I think that there were only 1 or 2 other NQTs who started in that year, and three members of the department had been teaching at MES for at least 25 years each. Everyone knew what they were doing and it was all in their heads, nothing was written down. It was a lonely time and I constantly felt like I wasn't good enough as I had to ask questions all of the time and make every resource for every lesson. However, it made me very determined that nobody else should have to go through that. When I became Head of Geography 3 years later, I introduced the previously alien concept of everyone teaching from the same scheme of work so that the students all received a consistent education no matter who taught them. It reduced staff workload as they could focus on producing lessons for one unit per year group, and they gained a better work: life balance as a result.

What advice would you give to a trainee teacher?

Firstly, the first few years in any job will be hard, teaching especially so, but for every child you encounter, you have had an impact on their journey, and society as a whole. Secondly just because you become a teacher doesn't mean you know it all; none of us do, we're all constantly learning and improving all the time. There is no harm in admitting that you don't know something, and encouraging others to find out the answer. Finally but most importantly of all, ALWAYS give yourself at least 1 whole day off a week, where you don't think about work, check emails, plan lessons or do any marking and don't feel guilty about it. Looking after yourself is key to being a successful teacher.

What inspires you?

My family, my friends, my colleagues.

What's your secret talent that no one knows about?

"Talent" may be the wrong word to use when describing my skills these days, but when I was at school I played Bb clarinet to Grade 8 standard, but I can also play bass clarinet, soprano saxophone, descant and treble recorders and the piano. But don't ask me to sing!

NQT SPOTLIGHT

Current NQT (Newly Qualified Teacher), Eilish Hawes has shared how her NQT year is going so far, during the ongoing pandemic. *"What a start to my teaching career! Having completed my PGCE and becoming an NQT during a global pandemic is something I could never have imagined. Maiden Erlegh School, Reading has provided me with invaluable and consistent support. The science department were joined by a number of NQTs, so it has been great learning with others. I'm completing the Pastoral Leadership Development Program which has given me a deeper insight into the world of being a head of year. I have also been offered ample opportunity to further develop my skills within my subject through courses with STEM and the IOP in addition to the NQT training provided by the Maiden Erlegh Trust and the Wokingham Federation. It hasn't been easy. Waves of isolation, both from staff and students, have required resilience and innovation; this was only strengthened by yet another lockdown and period of online learning. With this though, came the opportunity to deliver a staff CPD session on PearDeck, a platform I have been using to teach online lessons. The support and opportunities I have received as an NQT with in the Trust have been amazing and I cannot thank the staff within both Maiden Erlegh School Reading and the Trust enough for consistently believing in me and encouraging me."*





MHFA England

Mental Health First Aid course

The Teaching School organised a Mental Health First Aid course on 4 and 5 February 2021, for members of staff from Maiden Erlegh Trust, Alliance Partners and other local schools. Normally a two day face to face course, the power of the internet brought delegates together to learn about common mental health issues and how to approach and support children and young people experiencing difficulties. The course combined videos, reading, direct instruction and shared experiences. Delegates left better informed and with increased confidence in addressing mental health issues. The course is accredited by Mental Health First Aid England and all delegates were awarded a certificate of attendance which is valid for three years. Feedback from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

"I enjoyed the course. It reinforced some things, but I also learned new scripts and better ways to communicate in certain situations. The opportunity to share experiences and the video case studies were invaluable. I also enjoyed the opportunity for independent study, allowing me to work at my own pace." Course delegate
Anonymous



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT WORK

Maiden Erlegh Trust and Berkshire Teaching School Alliance colleagues regularly support other schools with school improvement work. "Our school improvement work has continued during lockdown, albeit in a very different format. I am looking forward to working with new schools over the coming weeks, and also being able to go in and work directly with colleagues in existing partner schools. My work is primarily with leaders, and what has struck me is how determined headteachers and other school leaders are to keep moving their schools forward, even in the context of a lockdown. The focus on school improvement has, therefore, been twofold – looking at the quality of remote learning and strategic school improvement. There is so much of the work of schools that people do not see, not least how dedicated education professionals are to improving their understanding of research and their practice. They do this for the pupils and students and, from my conversations with them, they very much appreciate what schools have done for them – despite the fact that they would like to get back into schools." **Mary Davies, CEO and NLE (National Leader in Education), Maiden Erlegh Trust**



SECOND PLACEMENTS

In January 2021, we said goodbye to our main placement trainees as they began their second school placements and we welcomed new trainees at Maiden Erlegh and Maiden Erlegh Reading, for a 6 week placement. The PGCE and School Direct training programmes require trainees to complete two placements to ensure that they receive a broad range of experiences. This year was an unusual year with placements being completed virtually due to Covid. One of the trainees told us, "right from the beginning I felt welcome in the MES family, which was hugely comforting and very pleasantly surprising given that I had never been into the school and nor met the staff or students in person. I was impressed with the care and commitment shown to me as a trainee teacher, and everything seemed so well organised that I didn't have to worry about anything other than delivering on my side of the arrangement!"

Julian Pratt, Current Religious Education
PGCE trainee



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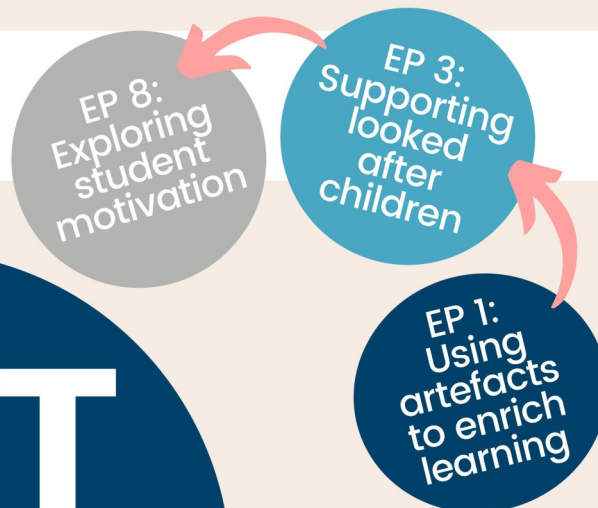
The Teaching School is currently delivering a 'Curriculum Leadership Development Programme' (CLDP) and 'Pastoral Leaders Development Programme' (PLDP) aimed at aspiring or new-to-role curriculum / subject leads and pastoral middle leaders. The CPD programmes consist of 6 seminars will help colleagues to prepare for next steps in their careers in middle leadership. The seminars are spread over an academic year and we are over half way through. Curriculum lead at Hamilton School, Scott Versace told us that "The CLDP sessions have been very welcome. Presentations are interactive and informative and those presenting are knowledgeable." Another delegate, from The Emmbrook School, Madeliene Lloyd shared, "I've really enjoyed being able to network with other people at the same point of their career and exchanging ideas and information with them."

If you are interested in booking this course for September 2021, please email mesteachingschool@maidenerleghtrust.org





MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST



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WHAT IS MET POD?

MET Pod provides a platform for staff to discuss areas of expertise, interest, and research and share their rich knowledge with colleagues across our family of schools.

WHAT IS EXPLORED?

Explore a diverse range of issues related to teaching and learning, curriculum, pastoral matters, leadership, finance, and Central Services.

If you are interested in being a guest on MET Pod, please email
metpod@maidenerleghschools.co.uk



What's New – April 2021

What's the latest from our Computing Hub Community!

It seems incredible to think that this time last year we were just heading into lockdown, and for the computing hub moving all our courses to remote delivery from face to face. I'm sure we have all learned a lot in the past year, and let's hope that the gradual easing of restrictions over the next few months lead us gradually back to normality.

In the meantime, we are continuing with remote delivery of our CPD courses - have a look at the information below to see what is on offer this term. In addition, there are a range of other activities you can do with your pupils, to bring your computing curriculum to life.

To see the complete offer from computing hubs across the south of England for next term, have a look at these e-books:

[Secondary e-book](#)

[Primary e-book](#)

As ever, please don't hesitate to contact us if there are other ways that we can support you.

Contact us via: teachcomputing@lgs.slough.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@CompHubLGS](https://twitter.com/CompHubLGS)

Remote CPD for teachers

[Computer Processors](#) - Starting 14.04.21

[Fundamentals of Computer Networks](#) - Starting 23.04.21

[Introduction to Algorithms, Programming and Data](#) - Starting 04.05.21

[Representing Algorithms using Flowcharts and Pseudocode](#) - Starting 25.05.21 or 14.07.21

[Introduction to computer systems networking and security in GCSE computer science](#) - Starting 9.6.21

[Higher Attainment in GCSE Computer Science](#) - Starting 16.06.21

Summer support programme



Are you a trainee, new computing teacher, or teaching computing as a second subject or

as a supply teacher? We have the perfect programme for you.

Through our free CSA support programme, you can gain valuable advice and direction from experienced educators, as well as benefiting from a community to help you as you progress through your professional development.

Sign up

[Leading Primary Computing](#) – 2 day course - Starting 22.06.21 and 29.06.21

[Python programming projects](#) - Starting 22.06.21

[Introduction to primary computing](#) - Starting 21.07.21

Other courses coming online in the summer term include second subject courses and collaboration in KS3 computing.

[Click here for full range of courses](#)

Looking for inspiration?

Browse the Teach Computing Curriculum which has been designed to help you enhance your subject knowledge as you're working your way through the lessons.

Each lesson includes an overview of the subject knowledge you need and notes you might need to deliver the lesson successfully.

[Look for next term's ideas](#)

Get Involved!

One Minute Mentor



One Minute Mentor

Teachers - inspire your students with careers in games with our One Minute Mentor videos!

[Watch the video](#)

Getting fun back into school



How about getting a **Code Club** started at your School!

Check out a CAS event Thursday Apr 1, 2021 from 3:45PM to 4:30PM

[CAS Events](#)

Cyber Security Challenge

Play the spring cyber challenge:

Week 1 starts 29 March



Test your cyber security knowledge in a series of five weekly challenges and be in with a chance to win a whole bunch of cool prizes.

[Play now!](#)

Need help starting a club?



STEM Club CPD

How about setting up a STEM Club, Sign up to one of our upcoming STEM Club CPD workshops. There are lots coming up over the next month, they're flexible and they're free for state-maintained schools across England

[Take a look now!](#)

Creative and Fun!

Childnet Film Competition



Challenge young filmmakers to create a short film or a storyboard in response to this year's theme, separating fact from fiction & finding trustworthy information

[Click for more information](#)

Coollest Projects!



You'll find no better way to inspire your learners or your kids at home about coding, creative tech and project design. Check out the showcase for ideas.

[Register](#)