



Forest School *Mr Russell*

Forest School has begun! Pupils have already engaged in a wide range of activities that require teamwork, communication, trust, problem solving and finding creative solutions, learning through mistakes. The crossover this presents with their academic learning includes resilience, trying something different and perseverance. They have completed a range of team building challenges, done some den building, assault course making, made stick, bench and tyre swings, they've made cargo netting from rope, learnt new knots and have guided each other while blindfolded, including through an assault course and while skipping with a large rope swung by staff!



As we move further into the year we will start learning how to safely build and manage wood-based fires. We will also be teaming up with Food Tech to get some delicious campfire treats going! Fire building with young people is very calming and satisfying for young people, as they gradually take ownership of the responsibilities involved, including whittling the wood shavings used to get the fire started.

We have invested in some equipment to support forest schoolwork and have organised a couple of trips, both of which we are looking to expand on as the year progresses. We have some permanent wooden posts being concreted in this half term which will complement the A-Frames we are already using for many of the tasks and challenges.

I look forward to updating you further through the year!

Headteacher's Half Term Round-Up

Miss Concannon

Wow, what a half term! It has been an extremely busy half term for all students and staff.

We have had a big push on uniform this term and have introduced the school hoodie which has been a great success with the students. It is lovely to walk the corridors and see all students looking smartly dressed in the school uniform.

The year 7 students have settled into the Hamilton Way and it is lovely to see them building positive relationships with their peers and engaging positively in their learning.

Mr Russell has also settled in well and the students are loving the challenges and outdoor engagement that he brings through his forest school.

The new school library is being used and enjoyed on a regular basis by our students and through kind donations our variety of books is growing, which will hopefully help grow the love of reading amongst our students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Woolford to the team, our recently appointed Assistant Headteacher, who is an art teacher and already we have started to see an impressive transformation of the art room. I look forward to seeing what the students create!

I wish you all a restful half term and look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 31 October.

Physical Education

Mrs Burford

This half term has flown by! The boys in all year group have been enjoying their Physical Education lessons. We have played different sports across the year groups including badminton and indoor short tennis. As always we continue to play dodgeball but the main focus this half term has been volleyball. The boys in all year groups have shown an improvement in skills and can now keep the ball moving and some are starting to think about how they move the ball. The year 8 and year 9s have also played some handball and are just starting to get to grips with the rules! A nice warm up game played across year groups is Pacman - one player is Pacman, the others are ghosts and they can only move along the white lines on the floor. The ghosts must try and catch Pacman, but there is a power up available that enables Pacman to catch the ghosts!

Next half term is certain to be jam packed again and we will continue to master the skills in volleyball and (weather permitting) I'd love to take the students to the tennis courts to play on a full size court!

Food Technology

Mr Bartenbach

Our new year 7s have had a fantastic start to the year in Food Tech. They have been learning some key words, basic cooking skills and have collaborated well in pairs.

This term, we have made thai green curry, apple pie and chilli con carne with rice. The apple pie was so successful that some parents asked for the recipe to make at home!

Next term will be a festive one with Christmas approaching. We will be making Christmas cakes, mince pies and chocolate logs – and of course, writing letters to the main man, Santa Claus!

English

Miss Haines

This half term in English we have very much hit the ground running: at KS3 we have been developing our key reading skills of prediction, questioning, clarifying and summarising; year 10 have been undertaking the first component of their Step Up to English qualification; and, year 11 have been working on the persuasive writing skills required for Language Paper 2.

Next half term, KS3 will undertake the reading of a more challenging narrative text. Year 10 will move onto developing the writing skills to complete the next steps for their qualification and year 11 will cover the reading skills required for Language Paper 2 such as summarising, analysis and comparison.



New Library



Book Donations

Maths

Mr Ramsamy

We have had a great start to the academic year in Maths.

KS3 started the term learning about ratio and proportion and then moved on to fractions. Year 10 have been working particularly well and making fantastic progress with the start of their GCSE course, working on enlargements/scale factors and similar shapes, congruency, and trigonometry. Year 11 have continued their GCSE course with linear and non linear graphs.

We are looking forward to seeing the students build on this over the next term.

Year 11 - Careers

Mr Versace



Our year 11 students are preparing for their first work experience placements, being arranged by the Education Business Partnership (EBP), for a week in the latter part of next term.

Three year 11 students also joined Mr Ramsamy and I for a visit to Reading College on Friday 13 October, to check out one of the bridging courses and to have an initial look around the college. Future visits are being planned to investigate some of the courses the students are interested in, and to also meet some of the tutors of those subjects, in preparation for applying for college placements before Christmas.

For those wanting to investigate what Careers are out there that may interest your child, try the CareerPilot website using this link [here](#). This is not only for year 11 students, as you're never too young to think about a future Career pathway.

If you or your child have any questions relating to Careers or next steps after secondary school, please contact the school and I would be happy to discuss these with you.

Year 7 Transition

Mr Versace

Transition is a key time in the secondary life of our students, and the staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the move from a primary setting to their new secondary home has been as smooth as possible.

After receiving some valuable student feedback, and consulting key staff in school, we are in the process of amending some of the class groups to help meet the varied needs of all our Yr7 students. With any change there can be some teething issues, but we believe these new amendments to the class groups will enable each student to gain the most out of their first year at Hamilton.

We are also welcoming new students into the school who we are sure will add to the wonderful community we are developing here at Hamilton.

For any information, questions or comments regarding the Transition process, please feel free to get in touch with me via reception or directly to my email: s.versace@maidenerleghttrust.org

Knife Crime Prevention Event

Mr Newman

On 10 and 11 October, we had the privilege of hosting informative sessions on the topic of Knife Crime, featuring speakers from Thames Valley Police and AltProv.

These discussions proved to be highly successful, leaving both Thames Valley and AltProv deeply impressed by the active participation and enthusiasm of our students. Thames Valley Police excelled in providing a comprehensive overview of the legal aspects related to knife crime, and they also emphasised how to seek support if a student or their friends find themselves in situations involving knife crime.

Moses, representing AltProv, captivated our students with his compelling real-life stories and personal experiences, shedding light on how knife crime and youth violence affect not only individuals but also their loved ones. Students felt at ease posing questions to Moses and enthusiastically participated in the engaging activities he organised.

It was an insightful and engaging experience for all involved.

Reward Trip to Thorpe Park

Miss Carroll

Every half term, our top ten point scoring students are chosen for a Reward Trip. This half term, our trip was to Thorpe Park.

Our ten students set off excitedly with Mr Woolford, Mr Bartenbach, Miss Millward and myself at 930am on 19 October and had the BEST day! The weather wasn't looking promising, but held off and within the first hour we had already been on four rides.

A firm favourite was the Tidal Wave - the Teacups weren't bad either!

We arrived back at school at 5pm somewhat tired but smiles still going and many memories made.

Mr Bartenbach and Miss Millward deserve a special mention for their fantastic Halloween costumes!



Macmillan Coffee Mornings

Our staff held a Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on 29 September.

Inspired by the staff event, some of our new Year 7 students had the fantastic idea of their own Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise money.

In the week beforehand, they designed some beautifully eye-catching posters and distributed these through the school to staff and students, and then spent some time with staff planning the event.

At breaktime on 5 October, all of our students gathered in the canteen for a hot chocolate and some sweet treats. It was brilliant to see not only the sense of togetherness of our students in the school community, but also to see their awareness of helping others in the wider community. We were delighted that some of them brought cakes and cookies to be sold at the event.

Together we raised over £60 for Macmillan Cancer Support!

To see more of the amazing work that Macmillan carry out, please visit their website: [Macmillan Cancer Support](https://www.macmillan.org.uk)

THE GREAT HAMILTON BAKE OFF

On 19 October, Hamilton Staff held their own 'Bake Off' challenge. The calibre of the entries was something Mary Berry would have been proud of! See pictures of some of the entries. Thank you to Sylvie De Groote, Maiden Erlegh Trust Director of Finance, and Alison Hobby, Maiden Erlegh Trust Head of Marketing and Communications, for coming along to judge.



Cake Winner - **Dr Corfield**
Apple & Almond Dessert Cake

Traybake Winner - **Mrs Wilson**
Chocolate Chip Cinnamon Squares

Judges Favourite Cake - **Miss Concannon**
Biscoff Cupcakes

Judges Favourite Traybake - **Miss Mitchell**
Dairy Free Lemon Squares

Attendance & Absence

We continue to focus on attendance and absence.

Overall attendance this term has been **73.05%**. During this time, a total of **159.5** days of learning have been lost to unauthorised absence: absence that has not been agreed by the school and is not related to illness or alternative educational activities. In addition to this, we have seen **28** instances of late arrivals by students, impacting on learning time*.

If you provide transport for your child, or they make their own way to school, please ensure that they arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am.

If your child is unwell, please email hamadmin@maidenerleghtrust.org by 9am.

*Figures as of 19 October 2023

Uniform Expectations

A reminder that students in all years at Hamilton School are expected to wear a school uniform, as follows:

- Plain white polo shirt (i.e. with collar)
- Black/dark trousers – not jeans
- Dark shoes/trainers
- Burgundy sweatshirt/hoodie with school logo (students have been supplied with these)
- Black coat



MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST

SAVE THE DATE

RECRUITMENT EVENT

08 11 23
Date Month Year

5:00pm until 6:30pm

Venue: Oak Tree School
Woodward Close, Winnersh, RG41 5LP

www.maidenerleghtrust.org

Wishing all our students and families a restful half term break.

Hamilton School re-opens to all students on Tuesday 31 October.

Flu Vaccinations

The NHS Berkshire School Immunisations Team will be visiting on **30 November**. Please ensure that you have completed the E-Consent that has been emailed to you.

If you require this email to be resent, please contact the school office: hamadmin@maidenerleghtrust.org.

For information about the flu vaccine, please see below:

- **NHS** - Information on child flu vaccines
- **Protecting Your Child Against Flu** - NHS information on flu vaccinations for parents and carers
- **Protecting Yourself Against Flu** - NHS information for secondary school aged children

For more information please visit **NHS Berkshire Healthcare**.

School Menu - Autumn Term

MENU Week One				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAK Cinnamon Swirls or Sausage Roll	BREAK Croissant or Cheese & Onion Pastie	BREAK Margarita Pizza or Pepperoni Pizza	BREAK Pain Au Chocolate or Ham & Cheese Panini	BREAK Sausage Bap or Croissant
Pasta Bar with Garlic Bread	Burrito Bar	Sweet & Sour Chicken Balls with Rice	Traditional Roast Dinner	Chip Shop Friday
Pasta Bar with Garlic Bread	Veggie Burrito	Vegetable Curry & Rice	Roasted Vegetable Turnover	Veggie Nuggets
Shortbread	Donut	Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Sauce	Apple Crumble served with Custard	Cookies
SANDWICH Cheese, Egg Mayo, Ham & Cheese or Tuna Mayo, Chicken Mayo		JACKET POTATOES Cheddar Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise with Salad		DAILY OPTIONS Fruit Pots & Yoghurts available Daily.

Our menu provides a variety of dishes made from quality ingredients, cooked on-site for the optimum taste experience. Please ask for more information if you have allergies.

MENU Week Two				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAK Pepperoni Panini or Pain au Chocolate	BREAK Cinnamon Swirl or Sausage Roll	BREAK Margarita Pizza or Meat Feast Pizza	BREAK Pain Au Chocolate or Ham & Cheese Panini	BREAK Bacon Bap or Croissant
Southern Coated Chicken Burger in a Bun with Wedges & Sweetcorn	Crispy Bacon Mac & Cheese with Garlic Bread	Chicken Korma with Steamed Rice & Naan Bread	Traditional Roast Dinner	Chip Shop Friday
Veggie Burger in a Bun with Wedges & Salad	Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread	Veggie Korma with Steamed Rice & Naan Bread	Veggie Sausages	Broccoli & Cauliflower Cheese
Waffle	Muffins	Jam & Coconut Sponge with Custard	Fruits Crumble served with Custard	Cookies
SANDWICH Cheese, Egg Mayo, Ham & Cheese or Tuna Mayo, Chicken Mayo		JACKET POTATOES Cheddar Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise with Salad		DAILY OPTIONS Fruit Pots & Yoghurts available Daily.

Our menu provides a variety of dishes made from quality ingredients, cooked on-site for the optimum taste experience. Please ask for more information if you have allergies.

Support and Information

Information of local services and events that may be of help or interest

Places Kids Eat Free in School Half Terms & Holidays 2023:

<https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free>

Family Activities:

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/family-activities/>

Early Help:

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/early-help/>

Reading Food Banks:

<https://readifood.org.uk/>



ReadiFood
Reading's Food Bank

Dates for next Half Term:

21-29 October	Half Term Holiday
30 October	Inset Day - school closed to all students
27 November - 01 December	Year 11 Work Experience Week
30 November	NHS Berkshire School Immunisations Team visit - flu vaccinations
14 December	Reward Trip to Jump In (selected students)
15 December	Christmas Dinner
21 December - 07 January	Christmas Holidays

Our News Feed: [Latest News](#)

Term Dates: [Hamilton School Term Dates](#)

School Timings: [Our School Day](#)

Parent Help & Support: [Information](#)

Class Timetables: [Timetables](#)

Letters for Parents: [Letters](#)

Maiden Erlegh Trust Vacancies: [Vacancies](#)

About Hamilton School: [About Us](#)

We would love to hear your views on Hamilton School. Please click below to highlight anything you feel our school has done particularly well recently, or areas you feel we need to improve, as well as a chance to nominate a member of staff you feel has exceeded your expectations. Click on the links below to submit your feedback:

