



8 February 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 8 had a fabulous time working with Thales on a Lego Project. The workshop leaders were incredibly complimentary about the enthusiasm, engagement and manners of our students.

On Tuesday, Maiden Erlegh School hosted a Careers Evening. It was brilliant to see a large number of our students present, positively engaging with thoughts about their future.

Next week there are external Dance and Drama Exams for Year 11 and we are looking forward to welcoming local primary students for a day of sport run by our Year 11 students as part of their BTEC exam.

Year 11 reminder

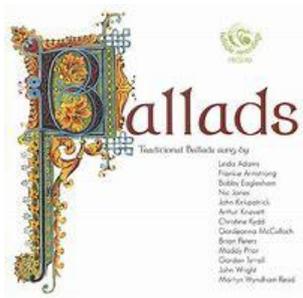
- ✓ Saturday School is happening this weekend.
- ✓ Half Term School will take place on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 of February.

Have a restful weekend,

Miss Moira Green

Headteacher

English Department News



Year 7 have been busy studying Ballads and looking at the history behind this spoken story-telling tradition. We looked at a very traditional ballad retelling the story of a Lord returning from war and had a go at writing our own version of the missing last stanza before finding out what had really happened. The students created some fantastic story boards to illustrate the key events.

The Ballad unit has also been a wonderful opportunity for the students to develop their presentation and performance skills as they have had lots of opportunities to read aloud and perform the ballads in class. Some students even decided to add actions and facial expression to bring the stories to life.

To complete the unit we studied the Ballad of the Gresford Disaster which explains the events surrounding the tragic explosion at the Welsh coal mine in 1934. Classes have been investigating the history of the disaster and are now writing their own newspaper article about it.



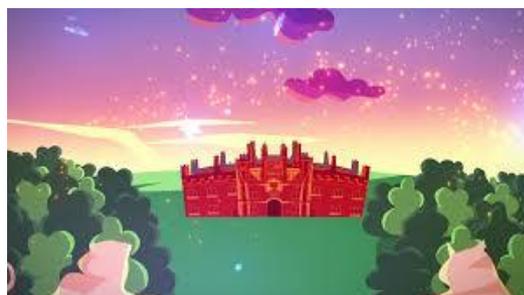
Year 8 have been studying War Poetry, looking at the theme of conflict and at the ways in which different poets present their ideas about war. The poems we have studied cover a range of different conflicts in different parts of the world and are a great starting point for developing the students' questioning skills, independent learning skills and higher order thinking. We have been developing our analytical skills in readiness for the GCSE course and have been practising how to write about what we read in more depth.



500 WORDS SHORT STORY COMPETITION

In language lessons, Year 8s have been working on their creative writing skills, producing their own short stories. There have been some incredible results and many of the students will be entering their short stories for the BBC 2 500 words short story competition.

The deadline for this is the end of this half term.





Year 9 have also been studying poetry but their focus has been on poetry from around the world. The unit has introduced the students to a number of poets with very different writing styles and the topics covered in the poetry are wide-ranging with some quite challenging themes. For example, “*Nothing’s Changed*” by Tatamkhulu Afrika explores Post- Apartheid South Africa and makes the students really think about the poet’s message.

In language lessons the students have been learning about creative writing techniques, including characterisation, narrative voice and the use of dialogue within a text. This deliberate focus on the writer’s “craft” has helped the students go on to create their own imaginative pieces. I am really impressed with so much of the work! It demonstrates a growing confidence and maturity of approach that is very pleasing and bodes well for the coming months. Expectations are high as we prepare our students to be GCSE-ready by the end of Year 9. Our aim is to ensure that they can “hit the ground running” when they start the GCSE course in September.

Year 10 Students have embarked on a study of *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley. The play will be read in its entirety and studied in some detail. Characters, themes and context will form the focus of the work. Scenes will be analysed in depth and exam questions practiced. Power and conflict poetry will also feature as the students work their way through the fifteen required poems in their anthologies. Weekly spelling tests are also ongoing.

Two Year 10 girls, Summer and Kate have decided to promote creative writing in school. They will be regularly advertising writing competitions on their notice board in the English Department area. See the board for details.

Year 11 *Unseen Poetry* and *Macbeth* are the current topics for the Year 11 students. They are working their way through the skills that they’ll need to analyse both unseen poems and Shakespeare’s fascinating play. Poems will be deconstructed in class and practice questions will be attempted. The *Macbeth* study will involve work on themes, characters and context. Extracts will be read and exam style questions answered.

If the opportunity arises at home then the viewing of a film version of *Macbeth* could be beneficial. The 1971 version directed by Roman Polanski and starring Jon Finch and Francesca Annis and the 2015 version directed by Justin Kurzel with Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard are both recommended.

YEAR 11 – THEATRE VISIT



In collaboration with the Drama Department, many of our Year 11s spent a wonderful afternoon at the New Theatre in Oxford watching the National Theatre’s latest production of *Macbeth* directed by Rufus Norris. The play was brought to life in a modern setting and many of the students commented on how the experience of watching the play onstage helped consolidate their understanding of what had been covered in class. The students were a credit to the school and all behaved immaculately.



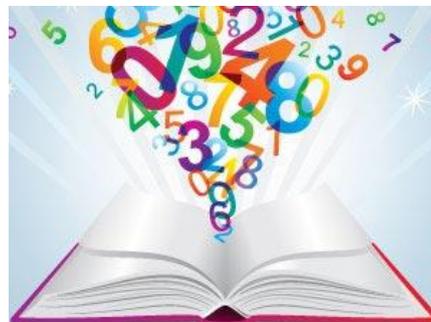
MATHS NEWSLETTER

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

The Maths Department is very pleased to announce that the Maths Challenge is back at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge!!

The Maths Challenge is run by the UK Mathematics Trust and is supported by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. The aim of the challenge is to stimulate students' mathematical thinking and test their problem solving skills in an accessible and yet challenging way.

The Junior Maths challenge is aimed at students in Years 7 and 8 and will be sat in school on Tuesday 30 April 2019.



MATHS PUZZLE - NON CALC

Q1. Which of the following is equal to $2017 - \frac{1}{2017}$

A $\frac{2017^2}{2016}$ B $\frac{2016}{2017}$ C $\frac{2018}{2017}$ D $\frac{4059}{2017}$ E $\frac{2018 \times 2018}{2017}$

MATHS PUZZLE - CALCULATOR

Q2. Last year, at the school where Gill teaches Mathematics, 315 out of 600 pupils were girls. This year, the number of pupils in the school has increased to 640. The proportion of girls is the same as it was last year. How many girls are at the school this year?

Maths Students of the Half Term

Very well done to these students who have been nominated by their teachers for their outstanding efforts this half term. They will all receive 5 achievement points and a small prize.

Fletcher F	Year 7
Pawel F	Year 8
Isabelle F-P	Year 9
Jack C	Year 10
Sophie D	Year 11