

# The Maiden Erlegh Marvel



## **New Maiden Erlegh School in Reading oversubscribed for September 2016**

*The new Maiden Erlegh School in Reading is once again full with a waiting list for places for its second intake in September 2016. It is one of only three non-selective schools in Reading to be oversubscribed.*

*Dr Thomas, headteacher said: "We are delighted that so many local families want to send their children to Maiden Erlegh's new secondary school in Reading. There are many applications from local feeder primary schools and all applications are within 1.85 miles. We want our school to be a local school for families in East Reading so that our pupils can walk to each day.*

*"As you can see below, the builders, Kier, are making good progress on the permanent building for the new school.*

*"We look forward to welcoming our new pupils and to working closely with their families in the exciting years ahead."*

The new building takes shape.



**Elizabeth Adetoye**

This edition's student editor is...

**Emma Graugnard**

Emma is a twelve year old student in 7G1 who loves to keep active whilst having fun with friends and working hard. She likes to play basketball, climb and chat with her friends. Emma's favourite subjects are English, Maths and P.E.



## **World Book Day**

*The World Book Day assembly was a huge success. A special thank you to the book club girls, Mrs Williams for organising it, and well done to 7Y1 for winning the charades competition. Although it was very competitive, it was an extremely well thought out idea and was very enjoyable. Hopefully we can have another one like it.*

*Charades wasn't the only thing that went down well; the talk with the author, Mr Matthews was also very interesting and hopefully helpful for all you budding writers. His talk proved to us that anything is possible if you try and put effort into it, and that you should not let any barriers get in the way of achieving to the best of your abilities.*

*If you did not know, our BEAR ( BEAR = Behaviour, Effort, Attitude, Respect) also symbolises a very similar motto. Just because you have already proved yourself to your teachers does not mean that all of your hard work can now come to a stop; it just means that you have to work even harder to stay up there.*

See inside for interview with our visiting author!

## Our New School Building

Dr Thomas is really delighted to see the rapid progress being made with the permanent building. The roof has gone on, the stairs are in and the windows are sited. Soon it will be water tight then the carpenters and plumbers can come in. There are more and more tradespeople coming in and the building will soon be complete. Every few weeks, Dr Thomas and Maiden Erlegh Trust's business manager, Mrs Julie Dennis, meet up with the builders to discuss progress and they are delighted that things are going so well. These meetings take place on a regular basis. The government has given the Trust a budget. Care has to be taken not to go over the top with spending and they keep in touch to check how it is all going. Dr Thomas said that he found the process fascinating and was impressed with the skills of the builders. "The builders have made very good progress and things are moving forward quickly."

Kritika Tamrakal & Latisha Ahir



The school's staff look round the new building for the first time.

### Sport's Relief Rib Ticklers!

by Mohammed Siraj

Q:How do crazy runners go through the forest?

A:They take the psycho path.

Q:Why did the chicken run across the road?

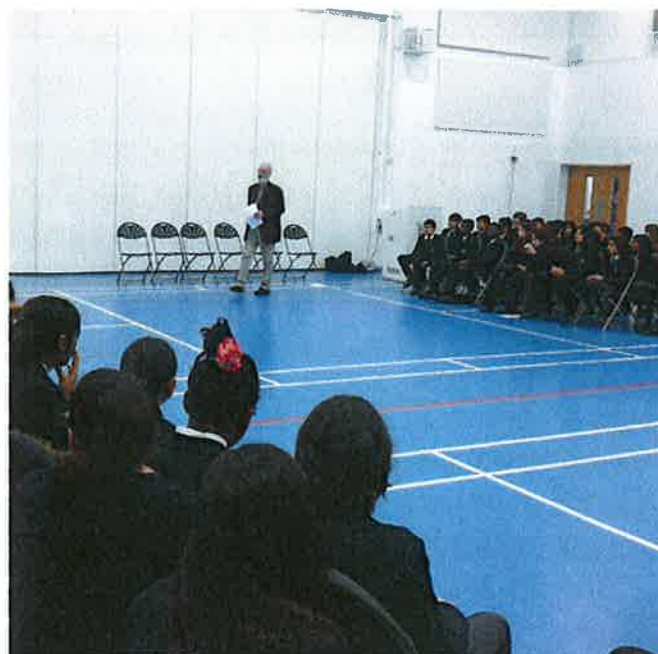
A:There was a car coming!

Q:Why can't you take a nap during a race?

A:Because if you snooze you lose.

Q:Who is the fastest runner of all time?

A:Adam, because he was first in the human race.



Local children's author, Andy Matthews, talks to students about his writing.

## Local Author Visits on World Book Day

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading was lucky enough to have a local children's author, Andy Matthews, visit the school to talk to students for World Book Day. Mr Matthews decided he wanted to be a writer at the age of 7¾. He had read so many books that he had been inspired to write some of his own. He was also off school a lot because he used to have very bad ear infections, but that didn't stop him from doing what he loved. Instead it gave the push to take up a pen and start writing as a way of staving off boredom.

When his first book was rejected, it didn't discourage him and he didn't give up. In fact he worked even harder so that his next book would be accepted. His first accepted book was "Wolf Pie" and it is still available.

His favourite part about being an author is that all he needs to do is spend the day sitting down and pursuing his passion, writing, whilst people pay him for doing it. It turns out that adults' jobs aren't nearly as boring as we think! For all your time and effort, thank you Mr Matthews for coming in and sharing your words of wisdom with the school.

Elizabeth Adetoye



## Follow up to Halal Article

Anesa Alam and Narjis Ghyas

Following on from last edition's article on Halal meat, and the many comments we have received from our readers, we decided to take this story even further. We thought we should ask the catering staff about this as they would have to be the ones who would cook and serve it.

We asked the head of the catering team, Mrs Sargent, her opinion on offering Halal meat. She said it's a good idea and agrees with the notion as there would be meat for everyone which is fair. However, it would be inconvenient to cook this particular meat as they would have to keep it separate from the other meats, although they could look into it for the new school as there is a smaller number of students. So as the school develops, Halal meat could possibly be another option on the school lunch menu.

## Carnival Day

February saw Maiden Erlegh in Reading School's first Carnival Day with a host of carnival related activities for students. All lessons that day were based around the carnival theme. Activities included:

- Music - rehearsing Bob Marley in groups with keyboards
- Art- making carnival masks
- D&T - carnival pop up scenes
- Drama - Latin folk tales
- Textiles - making headdresses and bunting
- ICT- researched and created historical presentations on the Rio carnival itself

During the final performance, we had some impressive productions from drama groups across the school. The story we performed was about a giant who wanted to marry a woman who did not want to marry him in return so the giant attempted to kill her son by putting him through unbearable activities. Throughout the performances, pupils wore their brilliantly designed masks.

Half way through the play, a group of girls did a Samba dance routine choreographed by Miss Jordan. After the play, Debbie read out the winning poem about carnivals, and we all sang Jamaican songs learnt

in music.

All in all, Carnival Day was tremendous fun.

by Sasha Harper



The Samba routine wows everyone!

## The Science Club

On Fridays, head of science, Mr Wallis holds Science Club after school. Here students are able to investigate the never-ending topic that is science! It starts at 2:30pm. We can: research it, investigate it, make scientific models, get help with homework and expand our knowledge of science generally. One of the many investigations carried out at Science Club was how fast we are compared to Usain Bolt. Pupils got an average speed when running 100 metres and then compared this to Usain Bolt's average pupil; Adedeji was the closest. Mr Wallis himself gave us his thoughts on the club: "Science drop-in is a great place for students to enjoy, investigate and explore the subject."

So if you want to go to Science Club, be sure to go, Fridays, after school, T5, 2:30-3:30pm.

By Siraj Muhammed



## PC Lesley Wakelin

By Amishi Gupta

PC Lesley Wakelin has come to our school twice in recent weeks and so far talked about Road Safety and The Law as part of our British Values PSMSC theme for this term. She goes to 56 schools in Reading - 16 secondary schools and 40 primary schools and has to make sure all of us (every single student) is safe. The most common things she talks about are all the types of bullying, safety and law/crime. She's been a school officer for about 18 months and before that was a detective dealing with murders and serious crime. PC Lesley Wakelin is one busy police officer and is always on duty to help us.

If you have any questions for PC Wakelin, please write them down and give them to Mrs James.



Ready, Steady, Go!

Raising funds for Syria



## Sports Relief for Syria - race to save the children.

All MESiR students ran one mile on Friday to raise money for UNICEF, a charity which is helping refugee children in Syria. They were allowed to wear mufti (non-uniform) paying £1 for the privilege.

The day started cold and foggy, but this didn't deter the plucky runners who pressed on to complete three laps of the field accompanied by Miss Moran, Mr Johnson and Mr Butchers with other staff cheering from the sidelines. There was some controversy about the final result with one student being declared the winner before it was discovered that she had only done two laps rather than the required three! In the end, Emma Graugnard won the girls' race and Fahouaz Kanon won the boys' race. Congratulations must go to them. It remains to be seen which tutor group has won the form prize.

After the fun of the race, students went on to sell homemade cakes and biscuits at break time raising just over £200 in total, a fantastic effort by all concerned. Mrs James was delighted with the event and said that the money we had raised would make a big difference to children who are suffering in appalling conditions in Turkish refugee camps. Narjis said, "It was a fun day and I wish we could wear mufti everyday." Siraj commented, "It's a really good idea to have fun whilst raising money at the same time." Finally, Jessica summed up the spirit of the day by adding, "No matter what the weather, it's always sunny in our hearts if we are helping others less fortunate than ourselves."

The Maiden Erlegh Marvel Journalism Team



The cake sale goes down well and brings in more money for refugees.