

# The Maiden Erlegh Marvel

## What do different religions celebrate while Christians celebrate Christmas?

Jan Rojek 7P1

Christmas is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. People celebrate Christmas up to this day with traditions such as Christmas trees and family feasts. Many different Christian countries celebrate Christmas in many different ways but they are all based around the celebration of the birth of Jesus. For example, in Poland, on Christmas Eve, the whole family has a feast without any meat in and in Greece boys go and sing carols in the streets.

However, what do other religions do while Christians celebrate Christmas?

**Judaism:** Hanukkah or Chanukah lasts for eight days from the 24<sup>th</sup> of December to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. It celebrates the victory of Judah the Maccabees over the Syrian tyrant Antiochus over 2100 years ago. Each night of the festival the family gathers around the menorah, a special candelabrum that holds eight candles. On the first night the head of the family uses a shamash (a servant candle) to light one of the candles. On the second night, two candles are lit, and so on, until all eight candles are lit on the eighth night. Each night gifts are given to each other.

**Hinduism:** The 25th December is considered to be the birthday of the Hindu god, Krishna.

**Islam:** Christmas is not a Muslim holiday but the 25<sup>th</sup> is a public holiday in memory of Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. Most Muslims do not do anything for Christmas. However, some Muslim families give presents to each other and spend time together.



## The First Tie Off

Samiksha Sivakumar yr 8

The first Maiden Erlegh School in Reading 'tie off' took place in the sports hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October as a way to help year students who were finding it difficult to tie their ties independently. The year 7 participants each had a year 8 partner helping them prepare for the tie off. It was hosted by Miss Jordan who was helped by Mrs James and Miss Davies.

The participants were put under pressure as the days of practice went by but they practised each day until they could know their ties quickly, neatly and most importantly, without their mums doing it for them.

On the competition day, everyone did their ties as neatly and as quickly as possible to be judged a potential winner. 3 pairs were picked as winners in the end by Mr Johnson, the deputy head of our school. The lucky pairs who won were awarded with chocolates.

## Clubs Clubs Clubs

Razem Abdelmagied and Jubair Hussain, year 7

At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading, we have a variety of extra-curricular clubs. We encourage all sorts of wonderful and marvelous talents to be developed outside lessons. There are many clubs suitable for you - if you love drawing, pop over to the Art club on a Wednesday with the lovely Miss Jordan. Is acting more your style? Head to the Drama Club with the inspiring Mrs. Brown. I could say more but you have to discover them for yourselves. Here are some thoughts about the clubs "My first day at boxing was a blast; you can learn how to fight and it's so much fun; lots of amazing activities." Rhyren West (11) "Drama club is awesome. It's really engaging as we can play lots of games and do activities." Akif Syed (11)

Who is in charge of these clubs, I hear you ask? Why, it's only the dazzling Mrs. Roberts. Ask her what's available. I do hope that you will take up the chance to experience our extra-curricular programme. See your form noticeboard for details.

## Cry of Icarus

A ship, a sunset,  
A farmer ploughing the fields,  
Distracting everyone from the affliction  
That is occurring.  
Icarus is drowning  
In the verdian deep,  
A slow death  
With no stains of crimson.  
Panic, shouts and tears  
Everything neglected.  
A woeful calamity  
Overlooked by many.  
Everyone had things to do,  
Places to go.  
No one battled an eyelid  
At Icarus' urgent cry  
No one bothered  
To look up to the sapphire sky.  
By Eliza Rozek 7P2



## BOARD GAMES CLUB

Vigash Mugunthan and Jubair Hussain

We have a new club. The club that I want to encourage you to attend is the board game club which is educational club because it makes you think a lot as well as great fun.

There are lots of board games, for example Monopoly, chess, bingo and many more. The board games are competitive and challenging so you could play with your friends. One of our students, Jessy, said, "Board game club is there to have fun so you can enjoy your time with your friends." And I agree with that - we believe board games club is about having fun, education, making new friends and getting to know each other.

There is a famous saying about board games which goes: "A GAME FOR THOSE WHO SEEK TO FIND A WAY TO LEAVE THEIR WORLD BEHIND" and that made me think a lot (do you know what it means?). So if you want to have fun and learn at the same time - come to board games club.



## Marvellous Miss Moran

By Nazema Sheikh 8P2

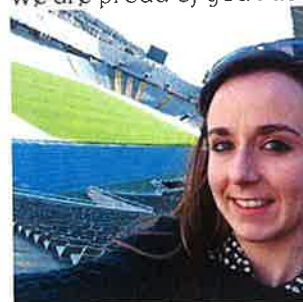
Recently, Ms Moran took a few days off school in order to participate in the Team Gym international competition in Slovenia. She participated in the senior mixed group with 9 other people. However, overall (including coaches, judges, nurses and gymnasts) 78 people went to represent the Great Britain.

13-14 teams participated and team Great Britain came 4th! This is a huge achievement as this not only meant that team GB was in the top 5 but it also meant that they were placed over a Scandinavian team (Iceland). The top five teams were Sweden 1st, Denmark 2nd, Norway 3rd, Great Britain 4th and Iceland 5th. Miss Moran said that the skills performed by the Scandinavian teams weren't necessarily better than the skills performed by the girls on her team but were just executed very well which got them more points.

When asked how she found the experience, Ms Moran said, "I don't think anything can prepare you for it". First were the floor routines in which all 10 members must participate. Next, it was trampette and tumble which was done by the top 3 girls and 3 boys in order to receive the most points possible. Everything was judged by difficulty and execution. An example of an easy move would be a straight front somersault with 1 1/2 twists. An example of a hard move, executed by some of the men, would be a triple somersault with 2 1/2 twists (a move like this would gain your team many more points).

Miss Moran says it was a fantastic experience and she would love to do it again. She also said, "it was definitely worth all the hard work." Miss Moran has been doing gymnastics for 11 years (since the age of 10) and says that this was her great comeback to the world of gymnastics as she took a break for teaching.

We are proud of you Miss Moran!



As well as doing gymnastics, Miss Moran is head of our Maths Department. How does she fit everything in?

## Dragon Ball Xenoverse 2

Mahmoud Metwally Year 7

Dragon Ball Xenoverse 2 is a game in the Dragon Ball Z franchise and is a sequel to Xenoverse 1.

### Gameplay

Xenoverse 2 is a game that prides itself with gameplay that is really well thought out as you get to play in a 3d environment in a level of your choice. In Xenoverse 2, the game starts with you creating your own character in the game. You get to pick from 5 races: The Saijians, The Buus, The Namekians, the Earthlings and the Frieza race.



Roster: The game's roster is very huge with about 80 characters with more coming through free and paid D.L.C (downloadable content). The roster features all your favorite Dragon Ball Characters like Goku, Vegeta.

Music: The music is great as it features a lot of old tracks remixed in the game by the talented Steve Noki like 'Cha-la head Cha-la' or 'We got the Power'. This is great as the first game featured very boring tracks while this will offer old memorable, nostalgic music that is great for fans.

Fun Factor: Whether it is shooting a Kammecha wave or a Spirit bomb the game is great fun as it is a pleasure at 60 fps to the eyes and the textures are really good. This is a very enjoyable game to play with the exception of the online mode as people like to use cheap tactics that don't help the game.

This is a great Christmas gift to any Anime, Manga or Dragon Ball fan and I feel that it deserves a great 7/10.

## Everybody likes a pun to brighten their day!

Jan Rojek 7P1

Q: What do you call a bird without breath?

A: A puffin!

Q: What's the worst thing about having a party in space?

A: You have to planet!

Q: What does a house wear?

A: A dress!

Q: There was an explosion at a cheese factory in France.

A: De-Brie is everywhere.

Q: Did you hear about the man who jumped off a bridge in Paris?

A: He was in- Seine

Q: What did the sea say to the sand?

A: Nothing, it simply waved.



## Our School Nurse; Bev Wheeler

Jubair Hussain year 7

As you may now know we have a school nurse and her name is Bev Wheeler. She can help with health issues at school or outside of school, help improve our health, offer advice and many other things. To have a meeting with her you should talk to student services and Mrs Oliffe will arrange a meeting with her.

## What do we think of our brand new building?

Now we have lots of amazing new resources.

Holly

I think the new school is amazing and when I first walked in I loved it. Now everything is brand new.

Zaina

I like the new school because there are more rooms and space to walk around and now there is a lab, a music room and a drama room.

Kylie-Ann

The school feels so cool and there are new facilities, new classrooms and it's all brand new.

The new school is really nice and it's really exciting to be in it. I like the Drama studio and the windows into the classroom.

Tommoji and Damini.

The new school is really big and really spacious

Abinaya and Sripathy.

I love the school and it's very big and lovely.

Edara

It's very neat, big, exciting and the colors are so pretty.

Esther and Saba

*On behalf of you all, Emma Graugnard, year 8, wrote to Dr Thomas on the occasion of his retirement...*

*Dear Dr Thomas*

*On behalf of all students at MESiR, we would like to thank you for all the work you have put into our school. With your commitment and perseverance, a small vision became a reality, benefiting many children and their education. Now we are inside our fantastic new school. What an achievement! We couldn't be more grateful...*

*Finally, this last paragraph is just about you - a man with so many qualities. You are kind, friendly, supportive, helpful, and respected. This school is a reflection of you, and always will be, so we hope that your time here has been enjoyable, and wish you a long and happy retirement.*

*From Emma Graugnard*

*On behalf of the students of MESiR*



We wish you well, Dr Thomas