Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge

MECEmatters

Issue 9+ June 2021



Reades Lane, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9LN Tel: 0118 9721500

Message from Andy Hartley Headteacher

This has been another term where we have pushed back towards a more normal way of working but with many Covid concessions.

It has been an absolute pleasure to see the resumption and momentum behind so many extracurricular clubs. Seeing thirty students attend History club, for example, is a testimony to the academic hunger so many of our students clearly have (and also the charisma of the teaching staff within the department!).

As a leadership team, we have also made sure that we have continued to get into classrooms and see and feel what is happening on a daily basis. The report, from our CEO, Mary Davies, of our external review in early May gives all the staff involved in the school a great sense of pride over the comments. Many systemic strengths were identified relating to the curriculum; teaching methods, behaviour management, aspiration and opportunity for all students, support for and development of staff resulting in staff stability, and finally, a rigorous and strategic approach to observing practice in the classroom and beyond.

As a school we have had to be the teachers, examiners, markers and moderators for our current Year 11s. As I write this we are about to embark on the final stages of this process but it has definitely been a procedure that has required a lot of agility, positivity and resilience from the staff. However, based on conversations with my teachers and senior team it is clear just how professionally this has been approached and how positive the outcomes seem to be.

CALENDAR

14-18 June	Year 10 PPE (1) (Pre Public
	Exams)
22-24 June	
22-24 June	Year 10 Careers Days
25 June	Immunisation Catch Up
	•
25-27 June	Year 10 Careers Days
28 June	Student Reports for Y 7, 8 & 9
30 June	RE Workshop Year 7–10
1 July /	ODD. Cohool Olasod to
1 July	CPD—School Closed to
	Students
1 July	Parent's Forum
- oury	
2 July	Geography Trip to Henley Y 10
2 00117	

As the damp wet weather has now moved on, I hope we can get rid of coats in our well-ventilated classrooms however, this seems a small price to pay for the fact that our students are back in classrooms learning and progressing, socialising at breaktimes, exercising in PE and on the courts.

The sound of a busy school is wonderful one and I hope that as long as we are sensible we can continue our path back to normality. The MECE community and its success continues to grow and build but everything is so much easier to manage and lead with the everyone in the building!

YEAR GROUPS—HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

Year 7

It has been another fantastic term for Year 7 with lots of exciting things happening. Year 7 attendance at afterschool clubs remains brilliant. It is wonderful to see so many students engage with the opportunities available to them. With clubs in mind: a reminder that **Homework Club is back** up and running on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afterschool. We had fantastic Year 7 attendance before lockdown, so I'd love to see as many Year 7 students there as possible. Homework club offers students access to the internet and a printer, a quiet space and support with work where needed.

During morning tutor time we have started a whole school initiative called 'Them and Us', which Year 7 are engaging with very positively. This initiative has included assemblies focusing on Kindness and Respect, as well as tutor activities on both of these themes. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading some of the wonderful random acts of kindness that 7A have been carrying out.

A number of Year 7 continue with their peer mentoring, this involves working once a week with a Year 9 student. It is fantastic to see different year groups interacting so well and supporting each other, highlighting what a wonderful community school we have.

Both Year 7 & 8 have attended a virtual PSE event called 'Smashed Live', focusing on the risks of underage drinking. Year 7 always engage fantastically with events like these and get a great deal out of them.

I look forward to embarking on the final term with Year 7, which will include Sports Day and a number of Performing Arts performance opportunities. Here's to another fantastic term — **Miss Cheeseman**

Year 8 & Year 9

Years 8 and 9 have settled into the summer term and have adapted to all changes very well. We have introduced a new programme called 'Them and Us', which highlights the importance of Kindness, Respect and Keeping Safe from Harm. They have been working with their tutors on identifying different areas to work on, and have attended assemblies on the themes, listening and responding well.

I teach all Y8 PSHE and I have been very impressed with their approach to the challenging topic of drugs education. This has covered areas such as county lines, legal and illegal drugs, and peer pressure. They have produced some informative posters which I hope to display after half term.

Y9 have been learning about body image and the media which has generated some very interesting discussion. Their mature approach to such a sensitive topic has been very pleasing.

We have a few Y9 students who are supporting some Y7 students as mentors. This is a very rewarding programme for all students involved, and we hope to be able to offer this opportunity to some Y8 students next half term. With best wishes — **Ms Biddiss**

Year 10 & Year 11

Year 11 have now left the building! It is very quiet without them, and I am hearing many of them are enjoying their extended summer, with some working to gain valuable experience and funds before their next career steps. On Friday 21st May, we hosted a Leavers Day with refreshments, ice cream van photographer and assembly. Many thanks to the parents who provided photos to include in this last presentation, and CESA who have supported the event.

I am pleased to say that almost every Year 11 student has made an application for college, sixth form or apprenticeship. We all wish them well in their next steps and look forward to hearing of their future successes.

Year 10 have stepped up to take on the role of school leaders and we were able to interview a very strong field of candidates for the roles of Head Students. Harriott B & Akshaye D were successfully appointed, and we wish them well in their new roles, with both having exciting ideas they are keen to implement.

Year 10 Parents Evening was well attended virtually via School Cloud on Tuesday 8th June, with the PPE exams starting on 14th to 18th June. Students had a walk through for the mocks this week, so routines and expectations were explained—*Mrs Ashley*

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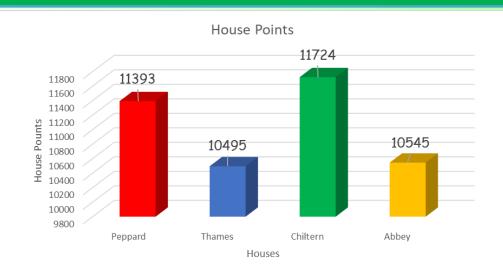


Thank you to Charlotte Snowden Photography

DOUBLE HOUSE POINTS WEEK-RESULTS



HOUSE POINTS AS OF 29 MARCH 2021



HOUSE MEMBERS OF THE TERM

ABBEY



Immy H—7C 26 House Points

CHILTERN



Charlie M—10A 34 House Points

PEPPARD



Georgina I—7D 35 House Points

THAMES



Zoe T—7B 28 House Points

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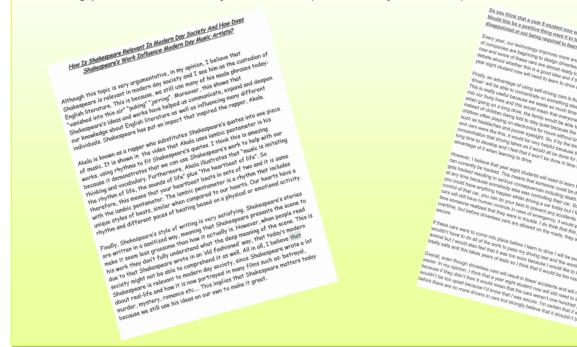
ENGLISH

What a busy term we have had in English!

At the beginning of term, competition winners received their prizes for their fabulous stories, written for a Christmas writing competition. There were 55 entries in total, one of our students came second and won a £25 gift voucher plus treats, with two additional runners-up.

We have had our second winner of our Weekly 100 minute Reading Challenge. This student selected their own reading book and were very pleased with its arrival. This is an ongoing challenge so let's see who the winners will be next term!

Our second whole school Discourse Writing Cycle has been completed; the anthologies with students work is ready and available to view. We can see a huge improvement in the depth of writing and therefore the written work being produced. Here are just two examples of many excellent pieces of work.



Year 11 have worked exceptionally hard over their final weeks, focusing on creative writing, as well as looking at unseen poems. They have now crossed the finish line and we wish them all the very best for their final results.

Year 10 have also been working on their poetry and are enjoying all the different elements of this unit of work. They are working extraordinarily hard to remember their quotations.

Continuing with the theme of poetry, **Year 9** have been looking at a range of poems from Shakespeare's Sonnets to Dub Poetry. They are enjoying the range of poems as well as learning about the different forms of poetry.

In Year 8 we are reading 'Blood Brothers'.

We are looking at how writers convey their ideas as well as use their personal experiences in their work. We are also entering a 100 word writing competition which all our **Year 7's** have entered, winners will have their stories published.

turn out to be

Alongside this, we have a team entering the National Reading Competition. We have the first heats this week and are competing against 28 other schools in the South East. Fingers crossed for all our students!

And finally, **Key Stage Three** have just taken part in the first round of our Spelling Bee! Our successful spellers will go through to the next round. Who will be our winner??



SCIENCE

Hello!

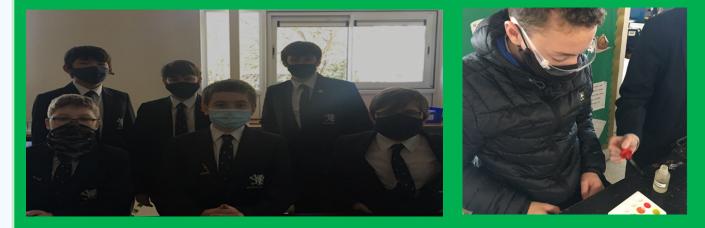
This term we have been very busy in the Science department.

Congratulations to the Year 11 cohort who have finished their final exams. We are very proud of every single Year 11 student and wish them all the best for the future.



Year 9 and 10 have made amazing strides in terms of progress and engagement. We have made the switch this year to the AQA GCSE exam board from Edexcel and I am pleased to say it is all going brilliantly with the Year 9 and 10 students.

The photos here include a Year 10 student conducting a science practical and Space Club showing off their amazing badges!



We have some exciting events and lessons coming up and hope to post some pictures on our Twitter feed - @MECEScience – please do follow us! Optional homework's are still being put up for those who are hungry for more science!



The Gifted Scientist Club and Space Club is now in place for Year 7 & 8! Both happen during a lunchtime and we are very much looking forward to a return to normal working practices where we can have visitors and trips with these groups.

Katy Hardman, Head of Science

ART, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

It's been another fantastic term in Art, Design and Technology, there has been so much going on and it's hard to fit it all into one news letter.

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to all our Year 11 Artists, Photographers, Chefs and Crafts people, your efforts and attitude has made everyday special. Mrs Ashley, Mr Reskalla, Miss Gates and I would like to wish you every success in the future, we will miss you all and remember hearing former students successes is always amazing so keep us up to date. One thing we have loved sharing this term is our making of mini videos, which you can catch on both Twitter and Instagram, from bread making to making photo stands! Keep Making, Baking and Creating Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge and have a fantastic last term.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Mr Watterson, Head of ADT

I have loved seeing KS3 student's finally beginning their ceramic work, and its always amazing to open the kiln door ready for the final work on our tiles and boulders. Year 10 Art and Photography continued their work on their Mock exams exploring the theme of 'Reflection' and its been fantastic seeing the final Year 11 portfolios and some amazing final pieces.



FOOD & NUTRITION

Students have been creating some amazing culinary creations: Year 7 have been showing their potential to be 'raising' stars in the bread making world; Year 8's, tasty fresh sweet and sour sauce and Year 9's 'eggcellent' frittata.

Year 10 have been whipping up a taste of Italy with their exploration of homemade pasta, creating dishes from meatballs to lasagne.





DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Design and Technology students have been busy in the MECE workshop creating. Year 7 have been putting all the components of their photo stands together; Year 8 have been casting, filing and polishing their pewter keyrings and Year 9 have laser cut their fancy new acrylic timepieces. Year 10 have been creating architecture models out of repeat patterns.









MECEADT @MECEADT1 · 28 Apr Year slowly developing their @PRPsculpture inspired ceramics! #WednesdayMotivation



MECEADT @MECEADT1 · 10 May Herbs are looking very healthy in the MECE kitchen this makes me happy 😂 #MondavMotivation







@mechilternedgedt

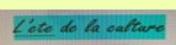
MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

L'été de la culture- Summer of Culture

The MFL department is embracing a summer of culture with most classes watching a French film either this term or next. KS3 have produced some great posters on this theme. Here are some samples:







Jadore les films parce qu'ils sont vraiment amusant et divertissant. Jaime un film Ernest et Célestino parce que c'est très passionnante Je pense que c'est assez intéressant mais pas ennuyeux.





KS3

Year 7 have been learning about the school topic – how to give opinions about school subjects, describe uniform and describe their day.

In year 8 we have been watching *Petit Nicolas* and year 9 have been watching *Les Choristes.*

The films have been split up over lessons to allow students to explore certain language elements, recap key language phrases and then adapt these for themselves.

KS4

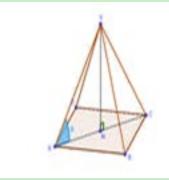
Year 10 students have been working hard and learning about the school topic. We have been working a lot on tenses and giving extended opinions which form the foundations of the GCSE course across all the topic areas.

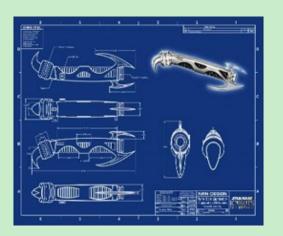
Y11 have worked so hard and have completed the range of skills needed to prove their language skills – well done! We are sorry to say good bye! - Mrs Foster and Ms Biddiss

MATHS

Well we've been back in it for what feels like a long time now, and everything is ticking along like clockwork in the Maths Department.

Our year 7s have been hard at work looking at coordinate geometry, linear graphs, Pythagoras' theorem and trigonometry in the set 1, and properties of angles in parallel lines and polygons in the other sets. The students are seeing why Pythagoras' Theorem and trigonometry were invented by starting to stretch it into 3 dimensions, to calculate the height of the Pyramids in Egypt, or seeing how the height of trees or mountains are calculated.





Year 8s are working on a statistics unit, focusing on collecting data and displaying it using boxplots in top set, they have been delving into quadratic functions at all levels, with some drawings of plans and elevations. The plans and elevations have been interesting to go over, due to their applications when dealing with the blueprints of planes and cars, while the boxplots are a very powerful method to show the difference between two linked sets of data, such as boys' and girls' performance in a race or on a test.

Year 9s are doing a unit on geometry, looking at the intricacies of angle facts and solving problems involving angle properties. These angle facts are then used to develop logical thought processes by having students explain how they know what the facts are, by giving their reasons for each step in the process.

In year 10, the higher set have been working on solving simultaneous equations, which they've excelled at! They have also looked at graphing systems of inequalities, which is used by most retail businesses in order to decide on how much of an item to keep in stock. Meanwhile, the foundation sets have been focused on statistics and how they are used in the real world.

HUMANITIES

History Club: Friday week 2 – Break 2 in Hums2

This has been really well attended by students and has given the freedom and opportunity to learn about the rich variety of History that is not covered in lessons. So far we have learned about some of the immigrants who have made Britain great as well as exploring the History of LGBTQ+.



We look forward to many more History Club sessions in the future!

Miss Shepherd—History



Eco-club: Friday week 1 – Break 2 in HUMS1

For the launch, students have had a full-on tree planting experience on the school site. The ground was quite hard to begin with but they have managed to plant over 50 saplings so far, including varieties such as Rowan, Oak, Hawthorn and Silver Birch.

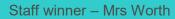
The next step is to come up with an action plan for the school community and of course to keep an eye on the saplings!

'Be the light' Photography Competition Winners

Well done to the following students and all finalists! The students received certificates and prizes in assembly and their winning entries will

feature in a forthcoming display.

- Ist place Mael L-P (Chiltern)
- 2nd place Lianna B (Thames)
- 3rd place Savvy J (Thames)
- 4th place Sicily H (Peppard)
- 5th place Ashton H (Peppard)













PERFORMING ARTS



DANCE

Year 7: This term, Year 7 pupils have been exploring the musical GREASE and 1950'S era! We have explored the characteristics and culture of this time period, which has a huge effect on social dancing. Pupils have re-created the Prom Scene from Grease and developed partner skills. We also started to learn a bit of Grease Lighting (go!-go!-GO!)

Year 8: Year 8's have been exploring a more challenging and advanced topic this term - Contemporary dance, and the work 'Infra' by the Royal Ballet. The dance piece is about inferring relationships; looking on stage at the dancers and interpreting what the connection is to each-other. They have used this as the stimuli to create their own dances in groups, and using expressive skills to show their stories on stage. The year 8s have worked really hard on the whole, and hats off to them as this piece is studied at GCSE level, and is not easy!

Year 9: This term our year 9's have also been exploring Contemporary dance, whilst looking at the professional dance piece 'Shadows'. This piece is a political masterpiece, set in the 1930's/40s and includes a family who are terrified of the 'danger' outside. The year 9s have spent a lot of time in set groups, refining and researching their own ideas on what their 'family' may be going through, and the different roles within the family. Each group has decided on a particular narrative of their own, and now aim to show the audience, what is happening to their world through movement and expressive skills. I have seen some fantastic movement ideas and collaborations happening,

Year 10: It's DANCE SHOW TIME! We have been given the green-light to organise, prepare and perform for the annual Edge Fest dance show! This means year 10s have been working hard outside of lessons to learn choreography for the show, and will all take an active part of the audition process. Other jobs include helping with costumes, lighting and directing. Alongside this, the year 10s are also beginning to learn GCSE rep for their Performance 1A component; the solo set phrases. It's been a hectic term, and will continue to be for the next few weeks - but it will all be worth it!!!

Year 11: My year 11 dancers have officially flown the dance-nest! I am very proud of you all for being so resilient in a turbulent year, I wish you all the best for the future! - Miss Gardner

MUSIC

Year 7: This term, Year 7 have been learning all about music from India and have been learning Bhangra drumming. Whilst drumming, Year 7s have not only progressed with their understanding of rhythm by playing and composing, but they are able to read rhythmic notation, and play accurately too, within their ensemble! Music in Year 7 this term has been loud and proud- Well done Year 7!

Year 8: This term, Year 8 have also been learning about world music, but this time from South America. The students have been learning all about fusion music and have learnt two different styles of music whilst enhancing their instrumental and ensemble skills on the drums and keyboard. The fusion is music from Rio 'Samba Batucada' a Brazilian percussion piece and the Argentinian tango a catchy and recognisable piece.

Year 9: This term, Year 9 have been composing. They have chosen their composition from a variety of set briefs and have begun working on them - from composing in ternary form, to music for a game, to a rap piece, to programme music and a fight scene in a film. Year 9s are understanding what it takes to create a successful composition and how the musical elements really come into play, ensuring their composition is a success!

Year 10: Year 10 have had the opportunity to perform and rehearse a selected piece by Miss Fay. The pieces are something that the students would not opt to play usually, but the pieces are really enhancing their technique of playing. Year 10 have also been learning another of their set works for their listening and appraising exam—Purcell's 'Music for a while' - learning about the Baroque period and analysing this piece of music with regards to the different musical elements.

Year 11: Good luck! It has been a pleasure teaching you. Keep playing, composing, singing, and listening to Music!

@MECE_PA

PERFORMING ARTS

DRAMA

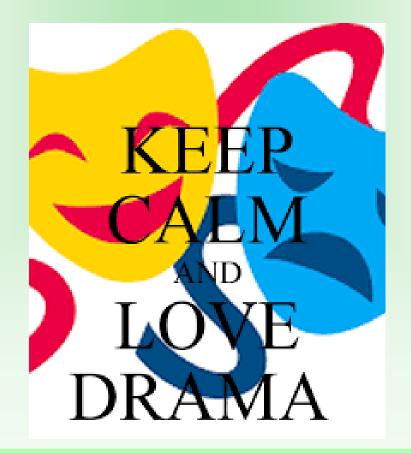
This term in Drama, Year 7 have been studying the Bard! Each lesson, students have exploried a different Shakespeare play and had a look at *Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, and The Tempest.* All students have been using Shakespearean language with growing confidence as they perform key moments from these plays.

Year 8 have also been studying Shakespeare, specifically *Macbeth*. This unit of work is designed to build on their knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare and is linked to some of the work they will do for the GCSE English papers in a couple of years' time. In addition to gaining an understanding of the play, we have also been exploring how we can create atmosphere and mood on stage.

Year 9 watched an amazing production performed in the style of Physical Theatre, called *Cookies*. This play tackles many important issues that affect young people relating to internet safety. Students then used this play as inspiration for their own performance work, using the same style and real-life case studies to help develop a script using ideas from Verbatim Theatre.

Year 10 have embarked on their first assessed unit which is worth 30% of their final grade. For this unit, the students are given a selection of stimuli from the exam board and they choose one to base their performance on. In addition to devising a 10 - 15 minutes performance, students need to write an extensive portfolio which explains the process they undertook during the rehearsals.

I would like to wish Year 11 a fond farewell and best of luck with the next stage of their lives. I would also like thank them for their hard work and commitment to their drama studies, despite many challenges and interruptions to their GCSE years, they have shown great resilience and humour throughout!



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PHYSICAL EDUCATION



@ChilternEdgePE



MECE PE



We have been teaching rounders and athletics within PE for all students. This has been the first opportunity for Year 7s and Year 8s to take part in these activities since they have been at MECE and they seem to have enjoyed it! We have had good numbers from these year groups attending the athletics and rounders clubs.

In the second half of the summer term we will be looking to try and organise some rounders fixtures so it would be good to see more students from all year groups attending rounders club on a Wednesday after school.

In preparation for Sports Day in July it would also be good to see students out practicing the athletics events they would like to do on Sports Day at athletics club after school on Thursdays.

DAY	AFTERSCHOOL 3.10 - 4.10pm
Tuesday	KS4 Badminton Club (Office Changing Rooms) KS3 Netball (Sports Hall Changing Rooms)
Wednesday	KS3 Rounders Club (Sports Hall Changing Rooms) KS4 Rounders/Softball Club (Office Changing Rooms)
Thursday	KS3 Athletics (Sports Hall Changing Rooms) KS4 Athletics Club (Office Changing Rooms)

PE Kit Reminder

On the whole, students have great PE kit, but on occasions a few students are turning up to PE lesson with the wrong kit. From our experience and observations of other schools, there is no doubt that schools that maintain high standards of dress and appearance are more successful. Students who take pride in their dress are more likely to take pride in their work. In seeking to maintain high standards at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge, we regard the full support and co-operation of our parents as essential. Please can all students ensure they have the correct sports kit for lessons to ensure we all look smart and presentable. If there are any issues with regards the PE kit please just let me know and we can try and help where possible: d.hunter@maidenerleghtrust.org

Physical education and games kit

(* indicates kit which is optional) Bovs

Navy blue polo shirt (with logo embroidered – purchase from Stevensons)

Navy blue shorts (available from Stevensons)

Navy blue reversable sports jersey (with logo embroidered – purchase from Stevensons)

Navy blue sports socks (available from Stevensons)

White sports socks (indoor PE sessions)

Navy blue Microfleece* (available from Stevensons)

Navy blue tracksuit bottoms* (available from Stevensons)

Non-marking trainers

Girls

Navy blue polo shirt (with logo embroidered – purchase from Stevensons)

Navy blue shorts/skort (available from Stevensons)

Navy blue reversable sports jersey (with logo embroidered – purchase from Stevensons)

Navy blue sports socks (available from Stevensons)

White sports socks (indoor PE sessions)

Navy blue microfleece* (available from Stevensons)

Navy blue tracksuit bottoms* (available from Stevensons)

Non-marking trainers

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We have now raised £252.55!!! If you haven't signed up already... all you need to do is register for a membership and name MECE as your chosen cause. You can do this by installing the app <u>here</u> or signing up for a card <u>here</u>. We will be using the money raised to improve the school canteen dining area, something that everyone can enjoy. Keep an eye on how much we raise by visiting our cause page <u>https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/50537</u> **Remember the more people who sign up, the more money the school makes!**



We are thrilled to be, once again, hosting Sonning Common Youth Club in our Youth Wing over the Sports Hall. All ages are welcome from Year 6 up, on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. There is a £1 entry fee and a tuck shop to buy treats. The Youth Club leaders are always glad to see new faces, and there are always interesting and fun things going on, including, crafts, sports, games, gardening cooking and more!



We have 21 people signed up so far to <u>www.easyfundraising.org.uk</u> who have raised a fantastic £220! Thank you! If you haven't signed up yet, please do and choose Chiltern Edge School Association (CESA) as your cause.

Support Chiltern Edge School Association

Did you know... there is a parent-run private Facebook group for each year of students? Join to ask questions and take part in discussions related to your child's year group. Search for the following on Facebook groups

- * New Starter 2020 Year 7 Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge
- * July 2023 Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge Leavers
- * Chiltern Edge class of September 2017
- * July 2021 Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge Leavers

Let's change the way we all think and act about mental health



FACILITIES HIRE

We are delighted to be able to offer our facilities for hire to our local community. **Click here for further information.**

Second Hand Uniform Collection

CESA have an ongoing collection for second hand uniform, if you have preloved items that still have lots of life left in them, please drop them to reception. If you are interested in purchasing second hand uniform, please contact CESA **cesa.mece@gmail.com**

ParentPay

Click on the ParentPay logo to login and register your account. Any queries please email us at ParentPay@maidenerleghchilternedge.



Letters for Parents www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk/ letters-for-parents/ Click here to view recent communications

"Opportunity, diversity and success for all"