

# MECEmatters

Issue 12 ♦ December 2021



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

## Message from Andy Hartley

Headteacher

Last term now seems a distant memory in some ways. However, the 15 weeks that we were at school had so many good things to share. Our new Year 7s have settled wonderfully and are starting to become MECEfied. I love to watch them playing table tennis and football (or chess!) at breaktimes along with the mature way they chat and socialise. It has also been a pleasure to see the Year 11s mature and develop as scholars. Exams in the summer seem likely now and that will work in our students favour as they are working hard towards their final assessments.

Whilst normality wasn't quite possible in terms of school events including the sad postponement of our school show and the continuation of many online parent events, the daily life of the school and classroom was more normal. I also hope this publication conveys some of the enthusiasm and passion our staff have for their jobs and their investment in the children's futures. In addition, I hope you can see from the departmental articles the high degrees of challenge we have put into the curriculum to stretch our learners. Towards the back you will see some of the charity work that our students have undertaken this year along with the Readifood foodbank drive that so many MECE families contributed to just before Christmas.

I hope you can see that one word shines through this booklet and that is 'strive' and we will continue to strive to be our best as a school and a support for the futures of our learning community.

## CALENDAR

31 January	Year 9 Thinking Ahead Workshop
2 February	Year 9 Options Launch in School
2 February	Year 9 Parents Option Launch 6pm
7 February	Year 7, 8 and 9 reports to parents
7 February	Virtual Apprenticeship Information Evening (Year 10 and 11)
8 February	Year 9 Parent's Evening
10 February	Deadline for Year 9 Options Forms
11 February	Inset Day—School Closed to Students
14 February	Year 10 Reports to Parents
15 February	Rockley Parent Meeting
16 February	School Show Evening Performance
17 February	School Show Evening Performance
18 February	Year 11 Reports to Parents
21-25 February	Half Term Break
28 February	Inset Day—School closed to Students

## YEAR GROUPS—HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

### YEAR 7

It's been another great term for Year 7, with lots of exciting things happening. My first highlight of the term was taking the Year 7 girl's football team to their first fixture at Langtree. The progress the team made over the evening was amazing and I'm already looking forward to their next match, special mention to Imogen for being voted 'Player of the Match'. Secondly, seeing some amazing results in the Cross Country over the first fortnight of term, including Emmanuel's unbelievable performance at the South Oxfordshire Cross Country at Gillotts. I've dropped into some food tech lessons and seen some fantastic cookery skills on display, including some very tasty looking pasta sauces!

The year group engaged brilliantly with the PSHE Day, where they explored the topic of bullying and staying safe online. Finally, more of our year 7 students have become published authors, thanks to the hard work of Miss Jackson in the English department! I hope that year 7 enjoyed a well-deserved Christmas break. I'm already looking forward to seeing what they can achieve in the New Year—**Miss Cheeseman**

### YEAR 8 & 9

Both year groups continue to work hard and make very pleasing progress. I was really happy that the year 8 virtual parents' evening was successful, and the positive feedback has been great. I hope that students will act upon their teachers' advice and continue to make progress and improvements.

Once again, I have had the pleasure of teaching some of year 8 PSHE. Last term, we completed an RE module on Buddhism and I have been so impressed by their response to the lessons. We managed to do some meditation and all students were respectful and appreciative of the chance to try something a little bit different!

Year 9 completed their first 'straw poll' as part of the options process. They carried this out very sensibly and asked relevant questions. More information will follow once this initial process is complete, and students have been urged to speak to their subject teachers if they have any further queries. Please also keep an eye out for communication from school regarding the year 9 parents' evening on Tuesday 8 February.

I intend to carry out an in depth homework audit for both year groups – there will be a focus on ensuring that it is being completed to expected standards – as you know we use Show My Homework to set it so do please let us know if you aren't able to see it – all parents/carers have access to what is set for their child.

Finally, I would like to let you know that 12 students from both year groups underwent 'Anti Bullying Ambassador' training in November, delivered by the Diana Award. They are now fully trained to help us with our ongoing anti-bullying message. Our aim is to meet regularly to share ideas and initiatives; we are planning to review the anti-bullying policy and introduce a noticeboard area to share information with everyone. Watch this space! - **Ms Biddiss**

### YEAR 10 & 11

This term has whizzed by, and I just wish there was more opportunity in the day to talk to students and find out more about their triumphs and successes as they complete the first two terms of their GCSEs. My plan is to arrange some smaller group meetings during tutor time to get some feedback from students about what is going well and what we can improve on in school. I have seen some outstanding year 10 work in my food and nutrition classes and I have been really impressed by the positive feedback from teachers for many of the year 10 students.

Year 11 have been amazing in their response to the PPEs and the results assembly. Students have taken on board the positive messages and understand that they now need to strive for the required grades for their post-16 journeys. Many students have had very successful interviews with colleges and sixth forms, with conditional offers. Please urge any students to get their applications in to give them lots of course options in August! We have started our first stages of interventions with students selected for resits and targeted work to help them improve their PPE grades. Feedback from the mock interviews that have already taken place is that our students have been very professional and mature in their conduct.

In the new year, we will start planning for Leaver 2022 hoodies and events, with the committee meeting to kick start the roll out of fund raising, type of event wanted and be involved in the decision-making process—**Mrs Ashley**

## DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

This month saw our very first 'Drop Everything and Read' session. It was a tremendous success with years 7-9 having the chance to borrow a book from the library and have a peaceful 20min slot for students and staff alike to sit and enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure. Watch this space for our next instalment! It's been a pleasure to see the use of the library soar!



## RETRIEVAL PRACTICE AND LEARNING

This term, we've been talking again about the importance of retrieval practice. Students will have noticed lots of quick quizzes in lessons, in addition to these, Tassomai is being used in English and science to support this work. Testing yourself regularly is key to embedding knowledge. Online platforms such as Seneca have excellent resources to help further.

Another key skill that helps to embed learning is to swap information from one form to another e.g create mini pictures that represent key words, or to create mind-maps of all the knowledge of the unit, or to make flash-cards of questions on the front and answers on the back.

The more you practice, the more you remember and the more you remember the easier your lessons are!

## HIGHER ATTAINING AND GIFTED PUPILS AT TRINITY

This term saw almost 50 students from the Gold and Silver Clubs visit Trinity College, Oxford University. They had a tour of the college, a Q&A session with some undergraduate students and a mock-tutorial session on whether it's ever right to ban books. The highlight for many of us was eating lunch in the very ornate college dining hall. The college repeatedly told us how impressed they were with the calibre of the questions and answers from our students; they are a real asset to our school.



## MOCK INTERVIEWS FOR YEAR 11

The Year 11 interviews took place over 4 days this term and were a huge success!

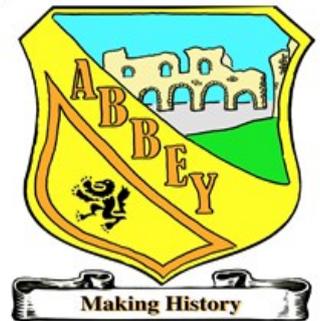
Our aim was to provide the students with as realistic an experience as possible, to help to prepare them for their upcoming college and apprenticeship interviews. Due to covid restrictions, some interviews took place with Trust staff via Microsoft Teams, which gave those students the chance to experience a virtual interview, something that is becoming more and more common these days.

Despite some initial nerves, the students came out of the interviews feeling happy, confident and armed with new techniques and skills to help them in the future. Each student evaluated themselves on how they felt the interview went, and received verbal and written feedback from the interviewer.

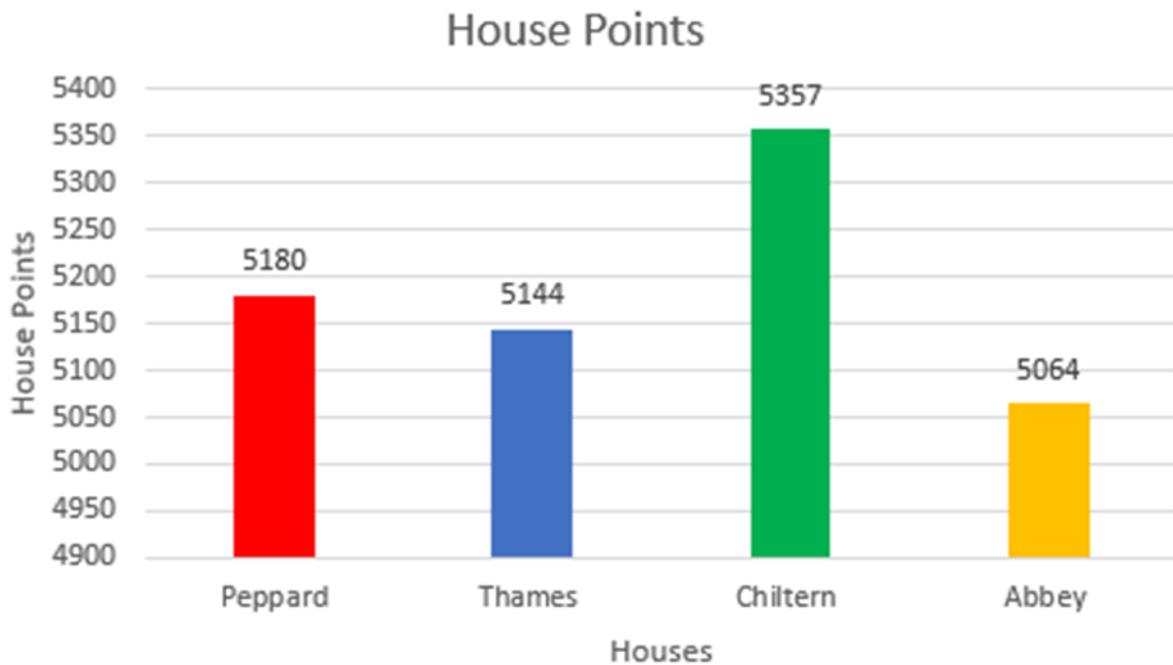
All in all, the Year 11s should be very proud of themselves - we certainly are!



## HOUSE UPDATE



## HOUSE STANDINGS AT END OF TERM



## HOUSE STARS OF THE TERM

THAMES	CHILTERN	ABBEBY	PEPPARD
 <p>Zoe T 8B 123 House Points</p>	 <p>Imogen C 7C 129 House Points</p>	 <p>Emily N 9C 103 House Points</p>	 <p>Thomas D 7B 106 House Points</p>

## HOUSE UPDATE

### SPELLING BEE

Mrs Grewal hosted a spelling bee house competition, which took place during tutor time and all students took part. Well done to the following students who qualified for the final!!

Mack H, Samuel S, Abel T, Brooke G, Elias G, Imogen C, Edmund C, Mason P, Immy H, Kieran H, Ebony M, Archie T, Alice S, Alfie M, Umar C, Amber W, Corey D, Caitlin G, Jack L, Catherine R, Jess H, Ben W, Luke P, Sheya F, Freddie P, Acacia V, Amelia H, Shonali P.

Congratulations to the winners of the competition—Jack L and Jess H in KS4 and Ben W, Imogen C, Mason P and Samuel S in KS3!!!

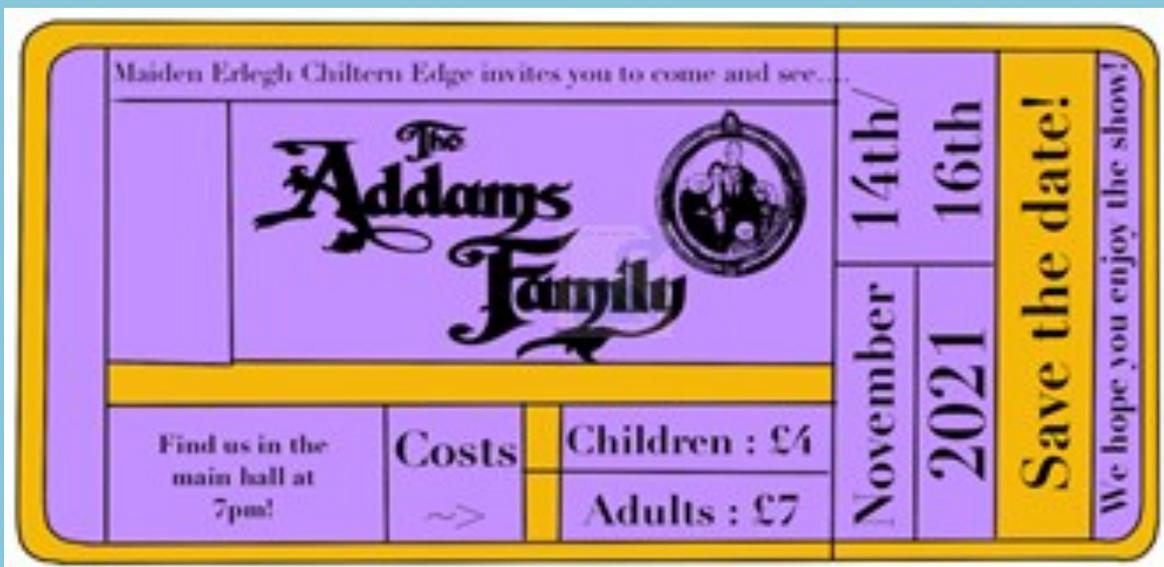
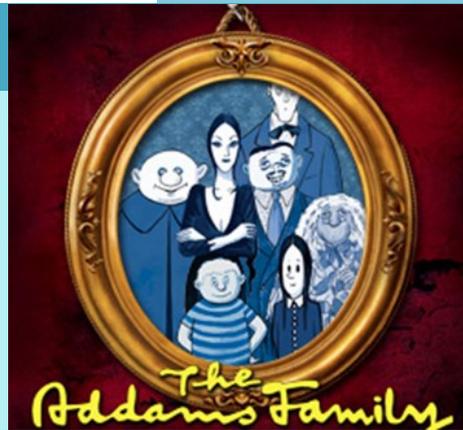


### TICKET DESIGN HOUSE COMPETITION

Congratulations to Amber W, in Year 10, who won the house competition set by Mr Yarwood!

Students were set the challenge to design the ticket for the upcoming MECE Production of The Addams Family.

The winning ticket design was from Peppard House student Amber who produced this striking design.



## CHILTERN HOUSE

This term, Chiltern House has been very busy working with their house charity *Reading Family Aid*.

In November, we had the pleasure of meeting with some members of the charity to talk through what the charity does and who it helps. This was also a fantastic opportunity for our students to be introduced to some important people within the charity and share their own ideas of how they would like to contribute towards helping Reading Family Aid.

Following on from our meeting, we were given the opportunity to host a toy collection, which we managed to pull together as a house, in just short of a week! We had many amazing donations from our students, staff and local community. We are very proud as a house to be working alongside *Reading Family Aid*, and we hope to continue to support the charity in the next few months.

Chiltern House are currently smashing it on the House Point leader board and at the time of writing we are at 5357! I am so proud of the work that Chiltern are achieving and the recognition for their hard work is reflected in the number of house points they are receiving.

Please remember to get involved in the house competitions and other enrichment opportunities. It is always great fun to support your house!

Keep up the amazing work Chiltern! Get ready to go again in January!!



## PEPPARD HOUSE

Welcome to the 1st Peppard MECE Matters update, nothing gives me greater pride than leading Peppard House and I am well supported by a great team of Captains and Ambassadors (see right). Have a great holiday from everyone at Peppard House.

### Student Voice

**House Ambassador Daniel** "In our house there is a strong community, being in Peppard means you strive

for to always to your best to earn as many House points as possible. Having the house system has made us much more competitive and work as a team. My highlight of being in Peppard has to be winning Sports day last year. As a House the ambassadors and Captains have chosen to support PACT as our House Charity, they work with parents and children supporting adoption. We look forward to developing our links with PACT in the new year.

**THE HOUSE TEAM**

Mrs M'Moose (VICE CHAIRPERSON) Mr M'Moose (CHAIRPERSON)

Archie Year 11 (HOUSE CAPTAIN) Daniel Year 9 (AMBASSADOR) Fay Year 11 (HOUSE CAPTAIN)

Natasha Year 7 (AMBASSADOR) Amber Year 10 (AMBASSADOR)

Grace Year 11 (HOUSE CAPTAIN) Juan Year 10 (AMBASSADOR)

Sicily Year 8 (AMBASSADOR) Dani Year 9 (AMBASSADOR)

Georgina Year 8 (AMBASSADOR)

Erin Year 7 (AMBASSADOR)

Mr Watterson (HEAD OF HOUSE) Logan Year 7 (AMBASSADOR) Sports Day Champions 2021 Cameron Year 9 (AMBASSADOR)



## ABBHEY HOUSE

Earlier this term, Abbey House chose a house charity to represent and support throughout the year. The students were very enthusiastic about supporting local Sonning Common Charity FISH. FISH have been around in the village since 1979 and are passionate about providing care, friendship and support to the elderly in the local area. They run a range of projects from a befriending scheme to a regular transport service. As part of their work, FISH host a monthly afternoon tea for the elderly residents of Sonning Common. This is a time for people who are usually relatively isolated to come together to enjoy food, friendship and even some sort of musical entertainment!

Recently, four students from Abbey House had the opportunity to attend a FISH afternoon tea. This was a wonderful experience, both for the students and the attendees. Our students were absolutely fantastic at serving tea and cake, as well as sitting and chatting to the elderly, they even got to take a goody bag of cake home!

We are really excited about this new partnership between the school and FISH and hope that many more students in Abbey House can attend these events and support such an important charity.



## THAMES HOUSE

What a fantastic start we have had to the year with some great achievements coming from our students in Thames house. I want to take this opportunity to say well done to each of you and thank you for all the hard work you are doing in lessons and contributing to the wider school opportunities and competitions.

This year we have chosen our house charity as the Berkshire Community Fund so that the money we raise can be distributed to a variety of local charities in Berkshire who need funding the most.

We have a fantastic team to represent Thames house:

Our House captains are Dylan W and Jess H in year 11.

House Ambassadors are:

Year 10 - Millie M and Dylan B

Year 9 - Amelia B and Scarlett U-M

Year 8 - Aleka H and Will K

Year 7 - Marilyn Q and Mason P

I am looking forward to a new term which offers a new opportunity to dive into the river of ambition!

“Opportunity, diversity and success for all”

**ENGLISH**

@EnglishMece



@meceenglish

This term, Mrs Grewal has put together and run a Spelling Bee competition for all year groups. We have had a tremendous number of finalists competing in the final week of term. It has been wonderful to see full engagement from both KS3 and KS4. Keep an eye on Twitter to see the announcement of the winner!

Follow us on our social media for all the latest news from the English Department and competitions!

**YEAR 7**

This term, we have been working on the unit 'words of war', focusing on WW1 and WW2 poetry. This has enabled students to learn the key skills of annotating and identifying key techniques used within poetry and understanding what the effect is on the reader. We have looked at poems by Jessie Pop, Wilfred Owen, Rudyard Kipling and many more. Year 7 have settled in very well within the English department, establishing themselves and getting involved in our enrichment opportunities. Some of our



year 7s have been chosen to be published in a Young Writers book, an achievement they should be very proud of!

**YEAR 8**

This term, we have been working on the unit 'language of war', focusing on different songs that link to power and conflict. We have been incredibly proud of our year 8s for their engagement and interest in the different songs we have studied. They have visited a range of genres and artists. Set 3 have thoroughly enjoyed the lesson based on 'Where is the Love?' by The Black Eyed Peas and Set 2 have had very interesting conversations about the conflict shown within the song 'Black' by Dave. We have even incorporated 'Zombie' by The Cranberries. This unit links very closely with the power and conflict unit that students will study during their GCSEs and therefore is giving them an insight to what is to come and giving them the opportunity to develop their skills.

**YEAR 9**

This term, we have been studying A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. We have been looking at the challenging ideas of empathy versus sympathy linking to the character of Scrooge.

Year 9 have been analysing the language attached to the different themes throughout the novel and exploring the way in which they could answer a GCSE style question using their knowledge of techniques and structure. This has set the year 9s in good stead for studying their future GCSE texts.

**YEAR 10**

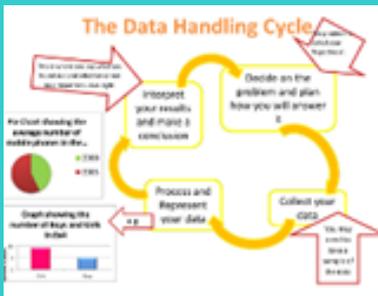
Year 10 have had a great start to their GCSEs this term. They have been working really hard on reading and annotating Jekyll and Hyde. This is evident with the engaging academic discussions they have been having in their lessons and the academic writing they have produced. Year 10 have not only furthered their knowledge from year 9, but they have developed their skills and embedded the key elements needed to succeed in their GCSEs. Keep up the amazing work year 10, we are very proud of you!!

**YEAR 11**

Year 11, what can we say? As a department we are so impressed and proud of your perseverance and your engagement in lessons. The hard work is starting to show and we couldn't be more proud of the effort you are all putting in! Year 11 are currently studying Macbeth, which will contribute to their English literature GCSE. The discussions that have been taking place during the lessons have been fantastic and we are so pleased with how quickly they have understood the language and their ability to analyse it. Year 11 approached the PPEs, which took place in November, with great maturity. Keep doing what you are doing, year 11, and you will succeed!!

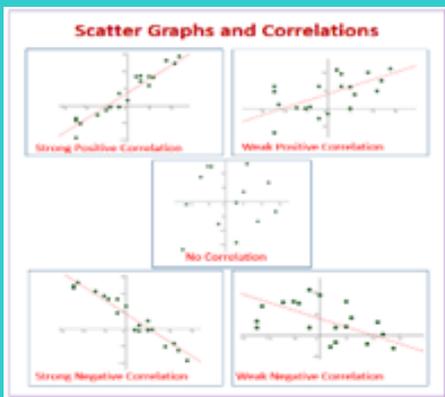
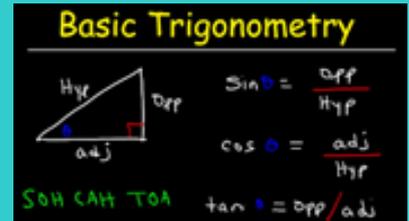


# MATHS



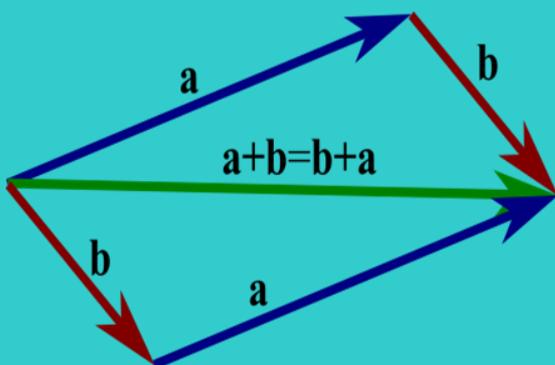
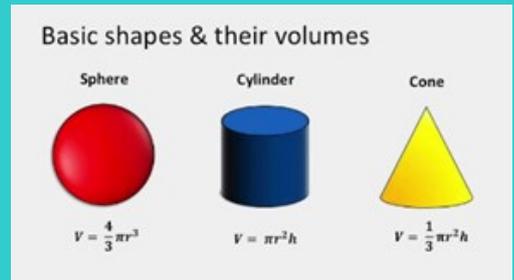
Well, it's the end of the longest term, and it has been very busy. Our amazing year 7s have been working on algebra, from writing and simplifying expressions to factorising and substituting into formulae. In addition to this, we've begun our statistics unit looking at representing data in tables and charts. The top set have additionally been working on sequences, and solving equations, and in the statistics unit have been focusing on averages, and interpreting and comparing data sets, and scatter graphs.

Our incredible year 8s have worked through transformations, ratio and proportion and have moved on to Pythagoras' theorem and are starting to work with trigonometry. While our top set has been working on quadratic simultaneous equations and inequalities before starting to work on probability.



The ever industrious year 9s have begun working on algebra, by expanding, factorising expressions and substituting into expressions. They have also commenced their statistics unit on displaying data using tables and charts. Top set have begun to develop their algebra skills through solving equations, changing the subject of formulae and finding the Nth term of various sequences—both linear and quadratic. Furthermore, we have begun to delve into the intricacies of comparing data sets using averages and the range and they are now starting to use boxplots and scatter graphs to visually compare data.

Our hard-working Year 10s have finished off working with Algebra, and begun to work on their Statistics unit on displaying data using tables and charts and are now comfortable using scatter graphs to display data. We have finished off the term with working on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages and their relationships with each other. The top set this term have moved through Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry and working with real world graphs, and onto Linear and Non-Linear graphs. The top set have finished off the term with working on 3-D shapes , specifically cylinders, cones and spheres.



Our resilient year 11s started the term by completing their PPEs and we are looking forward to working together on the topics that they need to improve on. This term, we have been in the process of finishing off the schemes of work; our foundation sets focusing on volumes and surface areas of 3-D shapes, fractions, indices and standard form. We ended the term by starting to look at similarity and congruence. Next term we will finish off on vectors and rearranging equations before the revision starts in earnest. Our top set, on the other hand, have been working through vectors, geometric proof, reciprocal and exponential graphs and direct and indirect proportion. It will be full steam ahead for revision in the new term.

## SCIENCE



@mecescience

Hello! What a busy and productive start to the 2021-22 academic year we have in science. The science department is made up of 2 new science teachers who are introduced at the end of the science section. Miss Swayne had her baby boy named Esra in late August. I know the whole MECE community wish her and her family well—**Katy Hardman, Head of Science**

## YEAR 7 &amp; 8

Year 7 and 8 completed their long-term homework project - 'my favourite scientist' or 'my favourite invention'. We had lots of really great entries including many female scientists being researched, but Year 8 really pushed the boat out and submitted a wonderful variety of favourite inventions projects.

Both years have studied hard for the last term and we are very proud of their progress. I have had



discussions with many parents around a national picture of underperformance in science owing to lockdowns and significant disruptions. I am pleased to say that as a department we are now nearly bucking the trend and students have made excellent progress filling in knowledge that was lost during the difficulties of the last 2 years.

## YEAR 9



Year 9 have kicked off their GCSE studies extremely well. Their recent test showed some pleasing progress and all the science teachers are really enjoying teaching Year 9. Each class is very different but all are engaged and interested in learning.

## YEAR 10 &amp; 11

Year 10 and 11 have both started this year learning about photosynthesis, respiration and energy. This is a large topic with some difficult mathematical concepts. But, we are pleased to say many students have excelled since returning and have settled into learning very well. Year 11 have completed their Pre-Public Examinations in

Year 11 performed overall very well and I believe we are in a strong position as a school to gain some of the best grades ever in Science. Year 10 have been studying some challenging topics in Chemistry – I have been so impressed by students choosing to stay behind during breaks to complete investigations and practicals. A particular joy was a complex practical completed which involved isolating the active ingredient from Paracetamol and comparing grams of paracetamol from around the world.

There are NHS and STEM work experiences available for year 10 students, all information is on Google classroom. I really hope some students take this opportunity up.



**Mrs Kirby**—I studied Biology at Oxford Brookes University and have worked in many different roles including as a fertility scientist, laboratory technician and landscape gardener! I have always wanted to be a teacher and I am immensely enjoying my new career as a science teacher at MECE. I have especially enjoyed supporting Mr Yarwood with Eco club and I intend to use my green fingers to help spruce up the school gardens.

**Dr. Wyatt**—Hello! I am an honours graduate in biochemistry, with an MSc in biotechnology/pharmacology and a PhD in protein chemistry. My post-doctoral interests were genetics and cell molecular biology with specific focus in cancer research. I have a PGCE from Oxford and I am a published author through my work on my PhD and Post-Doc in scientific journals (Science, JBC & Nature). I enjoy travelling, reading books, embroidery, yoga, swimming and building Lego with my 7year old son. I am a keen baker and I volunteer at my son's school for swimming lessons, organising discos, film nights and fairs. I am also passionate about

## PERFORMING ARTS



@MECE\_PA

### DRAMA



In **year 7**, we have been honing our mime skills by exploring three different kinds of mime. As part of this learning, we have discussed effective communication with an audience through movement and how to use exaggerated facial expressions to show reactions in a performance.

**Year 8** have been studying the origins of theatre by learning about Greek Theatre from around 2500 years ago. As part of our learning, we have used different Greek myths to perform in the style of Greek Theatre. These include Perseus and Medusa, Theseus and the Minotaur, and the story of Oedipus!

**Year 9** have really impressed me recently with their assessment performances of the really challenging performance style of Commedia dell'arte. Students have learnt about this 500-year-old performance style full of strange characters like Pantelone and Harlequin while trying to speak in the gibberish language of grammalet. Special mention to Kerise, Meggan, Alfie and Vakariss for their performances recently.

GCSE students in **year 10** recently presented their devised performances based on the tragic tale of Martha Corey who was killed for being a witch during the Salem Witch Trials in 1692. As part of this work, students have also been writing a portfolio of their creative process. This is in preparation for the first non-examined assessment later in the year which is worth 30% of their final grade.

Students in **year 11** have been having a good ol' go at accents over the last few weeks. We have been studying a play titled *Blue Remembered Hills* by Dennis Potter. This is about several young children playing in the woods in the Forest of Dean (and they all talk like farmers, apparently!). This play explores innocence and tragedy against the backdrop of WW2.

**Mr Harte**

### MUSIC

**Year 7** have been learning the language of music by reading and performing from staff notation. Year 7 have been performing the melody from Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy', enhancing their keyboard skills and learning how to read sheet music. There have been some fantastic performances and progression this term and I look forward to teaching our year 7 about world music next term.

**Year 8** have developed their knowledge of the Blues that was studied in lockdown by playing the 12-bar blues as an ensemble. The students have furthered their instrumental skills on the guitar, ukulele, and the keyboard by learning the 12-bar blues live and of course enhancing their ensemble skills by learning how to perform as one in time with each other.

**Year 9** have, this term, learnt all about the music of Brit pop! They have been enhancing their instrumental and ensemble skills



by performing Oasis's 'Wonderwall' in bands and using instruments such as keyboards, ukuleles, bass guitars, guitars, drum kit and vocals. There have been some great performances, and year 9 have engaged positively with the learning this term.

**Year 11** have been learning all about Beethoven and the sonata this term in preparation for their listening and appraising exam. Year 11 have also been working hard on their compositions for their coursework.

Well done to all our students for this term. There have been some fantastic and outstanding performances and you should be proud as I am!

**Miss Fay**

## DANCE

This term, **Year 7** pupils have been exploring the musical *The Lion King* and African Peoples dance technique. They have learned stylised positions and movements and performed a dance at the end of the term. For their performance, the pupils wore the mask they have been designing, making and be-dazzling at home. There were some truly beautiful masks and everyone has really enjoyed seeing them on display in the Dance Studio.



**Year 8** pupils will be looking at Hip-hop street dance, particularly the style of Tutting. The pupils were also introduced to a famous hip-hop company called Boy Blue Entertainment, and watched a piece of theirs which is also studied at GCSE Dance level. This will include learning stylised positions and movements in each style, and then a dance combining the two styles as their end of term/year assessment. This dance is performed to the piece 'Til Enda' which is a mixture of classical and urban music and is also heard within the dance work from Boy Blue.



Performances from the year 8s were of a high standard on the whole, so a huge well done to them!

- Year 10 have been delving into the basics of GCSE Choreography, this includes looking at stimuli, intents, structures and devices. I look forward to seeing their trio this week!
- In their theory sessions, we have been exploring the inclusive work 'Artificial Things', exploring contemporary style of dance and improvisation tasks. The year 10s have been an absolute joy to work with this term, and I am very proud of them!



This term, **Year 9** pupils will be exploring the Roaring 20's, and styles of Swing dance, such as the Charleston. They will learn stylised positions and movements and perform a swing dance mash-up for their end of term assessment.

This topic aims to tie up with History; as we explore the aspects of the 1920s in America such as segregation, pop culture and the votes for women protests. It has been great to see the year 9s be able to include contact and

lifts into their pieces, something they have previously not been able to do. There have been some really great lindy hop performances and we look forward to exploring a completely different style with them next term....ballet!

The **year 11s** have just finished their trios for their Performance Module. Their assessment was on December 16th!!

Alongside this, year 11s have been continuing to choreograph a dance for their choreography component. Pupils should now be at the point of creating movement relating to their dance ideas. In terms of theory; we have re-looked at 3 out of the 6 professional works studied, and have just started re-exploring 'Infra' by the Royal Ballet company.



## HUMANITIES



@MECEHUMANITIES

### HISTORY

In October, we were fortunate enough to take a group of budding Historians from Year 7 to visit Reading Museum and Abbey. This was part of our topic on the Norman Conquest and in particular, we were excited to see the life-sized replica of the Bayeux Tapestry.



The day started with a session from the museum staff looking at the build up and events of the Battle of Hastings. Our students were able to engage with the storytelling and several even got a chance to dress up and be a part of the story. We then had another session where we had the opportunity to handle different artefacts from different periods of history as we began to consider the different Royals and their links to Reading. The museum team were amazing at setting the scene and clearly explaining the origins and make up of Reading town. They then took us on a trip past the St Lawrence Church and through Forbury Gardens, into the Reading Abbey. Whilst there, we experienced what life would have been like in the 1200s and even learnt a dance that would have been popular at the time.

The students all had a wonderful time and were a credit to the school. Their engagement in all the sessions and activities was amazing and as a result, they were able to have some really insightful and complex discussions about the history of our town. This has then transferred into our lessons as they have been able to put what they learned about the Bayeux Tapestry and the Battle of Hastings into practice.

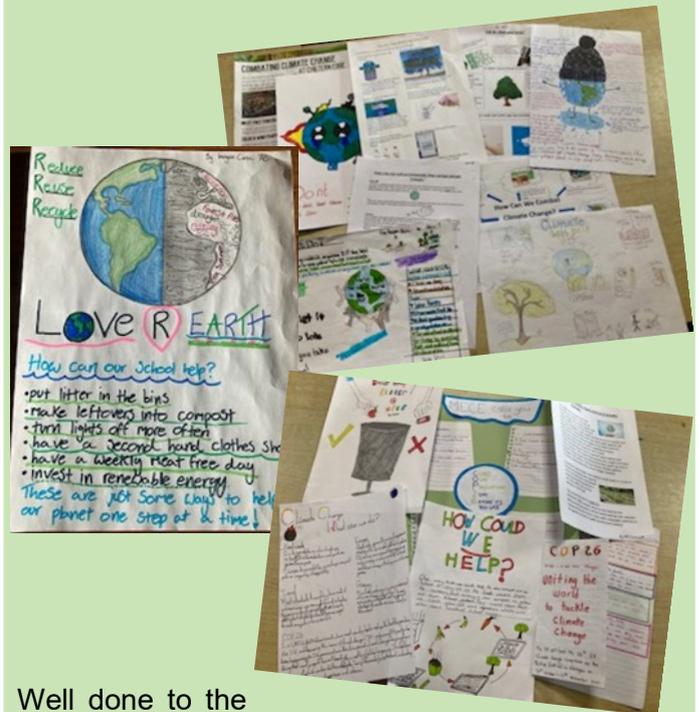
**Miss Shepherd**  
History

### GEOGRAPHY

#### COP26 Competition



We had a fantastic response to our challenge about how the MECE community could help combat climate change. Colourful and eye-catching posters suggested a wide range of ideas including a meat-free day in the canteen to growing fruit and vegetables in the school garden which can be then used in food technology lessons. Let's see if these ideas come to fruition!



Well done to the following students:

**Winner** - Imogen C (Chiltern)

**Highly commended** - Brooke G (Peppard), Charlotte F-P (Abbey), Isaias C (Chiltern), Ruby-Rae A (Chiltern), Will K (Thames), Ben W (Chiltern), Jorgia P (Chiltern), Immy H (Abbey), Ashton H (Peppard), Chloe G (Peppard)

**Commended** - Savvy J (Thames), Joseph V (Chiltern), Katherine C (Peppard), Samuel (Chiltern), Ollie S (Thames), Rufus S (Peppard), Daisy M (Thames)

**Mr Yarwood**  
Curriculum leader for Humanities

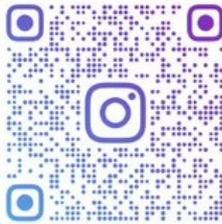
## ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

It's been another great half term in the ADT department, and I wanted to celebrate all the success our students have had by sharing some of the images from our social media accounts. A special focus for this edition is the brilliant work of the students in year 8 food and nutrition and their work creating Great British Menu Classics. In design technology, students in KS3 have been completing their first projects of the year, while KS4 enjoyed their first trip of the year. Finally, in the Art Department we welcomed the artist Sarah Graham for a zoom chat and put the final touches to a range of pieces seen below. Keep making, baking an' creating!

Mr Watterson, Head of Art, Design & Technology



@mechilternedgedt



MECHILTERNEDGEADT



@MECEADT1



A selection of entries:

Finalists

Winner Lola S.

Will K.

Hugo & Archie W.

KS4 Design Museum London Trip

Year 8 Food

Year 9 Portraits

Year 7 Birds

Sarah Graham Talk

# BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

A reminder that from January, a reading book becomes part of the compulsory Tools for Learning for all years 7-9. Students can borrow books from the library most break times.



The **MORE** that you **READ**, the more things you will **KNOW**.  
The **MORE** that you **LEARN**, the more places you'll **GO**.

## PE Department

*Click here to view our latest Sports Bulletin*



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.*

### TERM DATES 2021-22

#### Spring Term

4 January 2022 – 18 February 2022

1 March – 8 April 2022

#### Summer Term

25 April—27 May

6 June—20 July

#### Professional Development Days

(school closed to students)

11 February 2022

28 February 2022

01 July 2022

### TERM DATES 2022-23

#### Autumn Term

5 September – 21 October 2022

31 October – 16 December 2022

#### Spring Term

3 January – 09 February 2023

20 February – 31 March 2023

#### Summer Term

17 April – 26 May 2023

5 June – 21 July 2023

#### Professional Development Days

(school closed to students)

1 September 2022

2 September 2022

25 November 2022

10 February 2023

5 July 2023

CLICK ON THE ICONS & POSTERS TO FIND OUT MORE!

## Letters for Parents

[www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk/letters-for-parents/](http://www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk/letters-for-parents/)

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