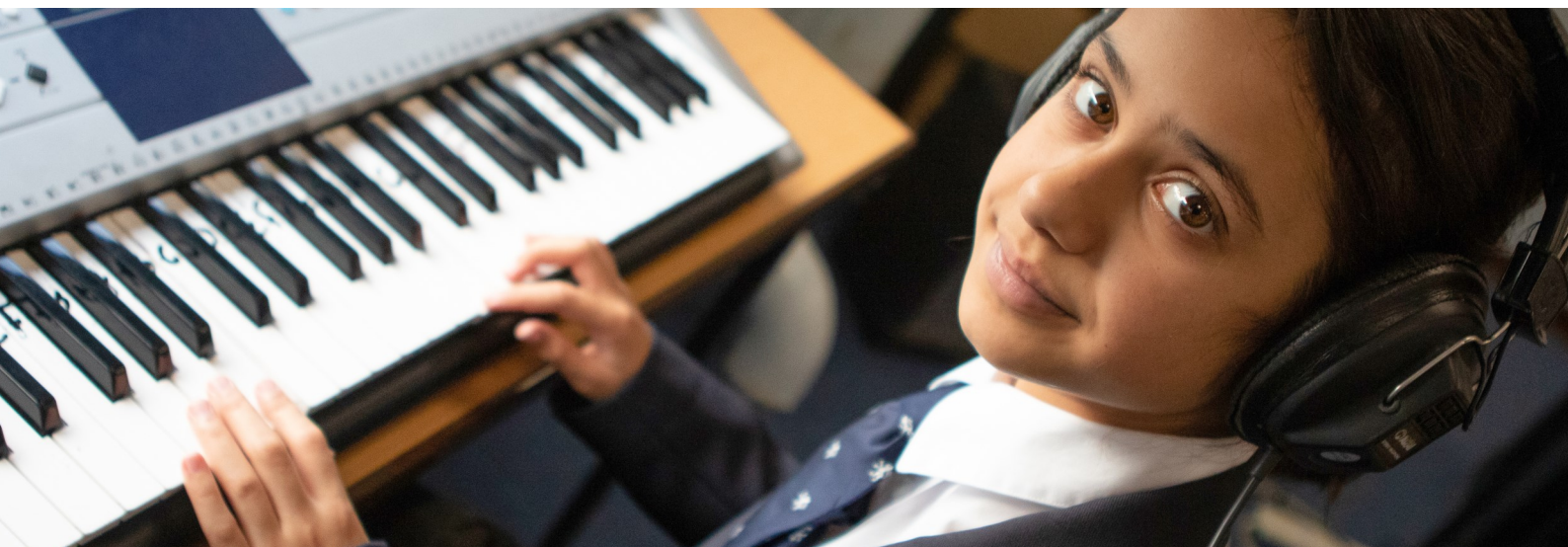


MECEmatters

Issue 13 ♦ April 2022



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

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Happy Easter, Chag Sameach, Ramadan Mubarak and a retrospective Happy Holi. This year, despite Covid, we have not (so far!!) had to go onto a rota or home learning and when things have been difficult, staff have doubled up classes, taken extra cover lessons and moved around timetables to ensure the students have had a meaningful academic experience each day.

Reading through the draft copy of this newsletter my heart bulged with pride. It is clear how ambitious the staff are for the students and the curricular experience of each child in each subject shows real thought and consideration with threads of skill and fascinating content woven across each Key Stage. It is also clear just how many opportunities there are at the school. From the sports teams, science week, house quizzes and competitions, Eco Club, History Club, a language trip to Oxford, Latin Club, a Year 9 visit to the Imperial War Museum, musical performances and shows, Lego Club and extra tutoring for those requiring it - the list goes on. In a small school such as ours, it is a measure of the passion of the staff that there are so many opportunities on offer. I hope as parents you can support us in cajoling and nudging our students into taking advantage of what is available to them.

Our desire to educate the whole person is supported by the breadth of assemblies on offer this term; financial awareness, Shakespeare and his legacy, International Womens' Day, the importance of strong character in adolescent development and Holocaust Memorial Day. Last week, we held two special presentations - one to Year 9 and 10 on the dangers and tactics used by County Lines gangs and the second to Years 7 -9 on staying safe. Growing up today is not always easy and whilst we are focused upon academic development, our learning community must also understand the world around them and it is our duty to prepare our students for life beyond the school gates.

Lastly, can I thank the large number of you that supported our raffle. With a £250 first prize donated by Bridges Estate Agents in Sonning Common it was definitely worth being 'in it to win it'! This money will be vital in the ongoing refurbishment and refreshment of student facilities. With our land sale imminent the school is about to enter a very exciting phase in its renaissance, and we can't wait to get going with all of this.

CALENDAR

11-22 April	Easter Holiday
19-22 April	Easter School (Y11)
28 April	UKMT Junior Maths Challenge
29 April	RE Day (Y7-10)
06 May	CESA Bingo Night
09-13 May	Yr 10 PPEs
09 May	Houses of Parliament Trip
16 May-13 June	GCSE Examinations
18-20 May	Y10 Work Experience
17 May	TDP/MEN ACWY Immunisations
19 May	PE South Oxon District Athletics at Tilsley Park
25 May	Y11 Leaver's Event
25 May	Y7 Parent's Evening
26 May	Y11 Study Leave Starts
30 May-03 June	Half Term

For more information please visit: www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk Twitter: @MEChilternEdge

"Opportunity, diversity and success for all"

YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 7

It has been another great term for Year 7, with lots of exciting things happening both in and outside of the classroom.

A few of my highlights this term have been; Revival (the incredible Year 7 band) performing at Henley Youth Festival and then taking to the stage again at school to perform for their peers. The beautiful photographs that the students submitted for the 'One Day Is' house competition.



The engagement of the year group during Miss Jackson's 'Shakespeare' assembly, where students read quotes and took part in a game of 'Shakespeare or HipHop'. The amazing performances at the indoor athletics event. Finally, the Year 7 boys football team coming 3rd overall in the Unified Football Tournament. With plenty more opportunities coming up after the break, I look forward to seeing what Year 7 achieve over the next half term.



I hope everyone enjoys a restful Easter break and that Year 7 return fully prepared for another successful term!

Miss Cheeseman
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8 & 9

Both year groups continue to work hard and make pleasing progress. Whenever I can, I visit lessons and observe students working (and thinking!) hard, and am impressed to see calm, purposeful study. I also aim to visit each tutor group every day and I am pleased to report that most students are in perfect uniform with a full set of Tools for Learning, making for a calm start to each day. There are some fantastic tutor activities happening, and tutor reading twice a week highlights our whole-school aim to promote reading wherever we can.

Year 8 are working hard and have shown excellent commitment to learning – I had the pleasure of covering an English lesson recently and was so impressed by their knowledge and enthusiasm for 'Blood Brothers'! I know too that their sporting achievements have been impressive and I hope to get out more to see the teams in action!



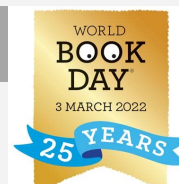
Year 9 have taken their options and have been allocated their choices. Huge thanks to Miss Bliss for ensuring that everything has run smoothly, and credit to the year group who have gone through the process with maturity. There is so much to look forward to, and exciting new opportunities to study some subjects in greater depth – however, there remains an expectation that if your child has chosen not to study a subject at GCSE in Year 10, they must remain committed to their learning of that subject until the end of year 9.

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in years 8&9 have been working hard. At the beginning of March, they met with Mr Hartley to discuss next steps and this term they have worked on producing a student-friendly version of the Anti-Bullying policy, have set up a dedicated Anti-Bullying email address and have designed posters promoting the group. We also have a lovely noticeboard!

Ms Biddiss
Head of Year 8 & 9

WORLD BOOK DAY

We Dropped Everything and Read! This was the latest installation of our brilliant 'Drop Everything and Read' initiative. Once a half term, Year 7-9 read for 20 minutes at the start of period 1 as a peaceful and pleasant way to start the day! A reminder that all Year 7-9 must have a reading book as part of their Tools for Learning.



YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 10 & 11

So many teachers are feeding back to me on the great work Year 10 are completing across their subjects. I was also informed about the exemplary behaviour of our students at their recent theatre trip to *Woman in Black*, where many Year 10s and 11s attended.

Students are completing revision on their set English literature texts in tutor time, and as a whole, work is on track for their upcoming mock exams. A minority of students are not completing homework so we will be strongly encouraging attendance to Homework Club on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday if additional support is needed in this area.

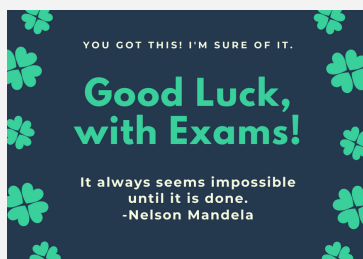
It was lovely to meet so many of you at our first in-person Parents Evening recently and to share the progress of your children. Your children are a credit to you, and the pool of potential candidates is going to make interviewing for head students, house captains and wellbeing ambassador, later this school year, very difficult choices.

Year 11 have been fantastic in their response to their mock exams, with the majority of students engaging and working hard. We had a really good uptake to the revision sessions before hand, and will be using data for attendance, good behaviour and attendance of these sessions as part of our Prom points, students with the highest Prom Points into a draw for prizes, such as discounts towards ticket costs, a make-up and hair session on the day of the Prom, and more to come.

Year 11 only have four weeks of lessons at school left before the GCSEs start, so attendance is key as we cover revision topics and the last stages of preparation for the upcoming exams. So many of our students have interviewed for, and secured, conditional places at the sixth forms and colleges of their choices, and we are very proud of their efforts.



Revise!



Mrs Ashley
Head of Year 10 & 11

QUEENS COLLEGE LINGUISTICS DAY

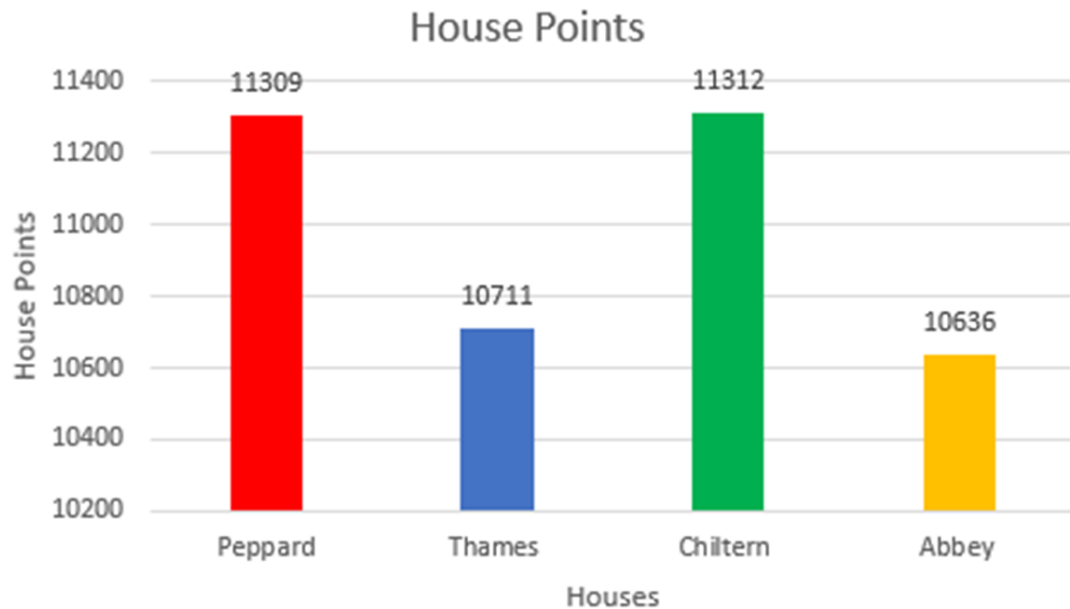
On Wednesday, 2 March, we were represented by four exemplary Year 9 students at a languages afternoon at Queen's College, at the University of Oxford. The students attended a mini lecture on linguistics - looking at the origins of words and languages, their history and their future relevance (we found out that young people are not "lazy" in their language but are at the forefront of language development!).

The students then attended a very academic Polish poetry tutorial and a French lesson where they created subtitles for a film. The students took on the challenges with great enthusiasm and did us all proud. We are looking forward to the students sharing what they learned with their year 9 peers in class.



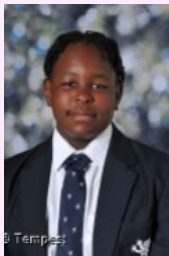


HOUSE SYSTEM

CURRENT HOUSE STANDINGS



HOUSE MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

THAMES	CHILTERN
 <p>Luca G (10B) 19 House Points</p>	 <p>Ben A (10B) 20 House Points</p>
PEPPARD	ABBEEY
 <p>Katherine C (8C) 14 House Points</p>	 <p>Malcom S (8B) 18 House Points</p>

ENGLISH



@meceenglish

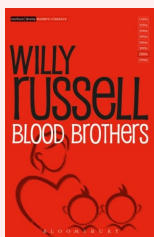
This term, the English department got off to a roaring start with World Book Week and the students of all year groups participated in lots of amazing activities. It was lovely seeing so many take part in the quiz at lunchtime and talk so passionately about what they are reading.

YEAR 7

Year 7 have been exploring the world of non-fiction writing and really thinking about how language shapes how we connect to different types of texts. We have also been practising the art of persuasion - some fascinating arguments were made!

YEAR 8

Year 8 have been studying *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell, a very engaging play. The focus has been on how Russell has depicted the two families and how these characters reflect the time the play was written in. Students have looked at how class and



education has impacted the two main characters; the inferences made from the text show a real growth in the students. Well done Year 8!

YEAR 9

Year 9 have delved into the world of deceit and treachery this term with Shakespeare's *Richard III*. We have been focusing on how Shakespeare presents ambition as well as what society was like in that period; these topics will help Year 9 as they move on to *Macbeth* for their GCSE's.



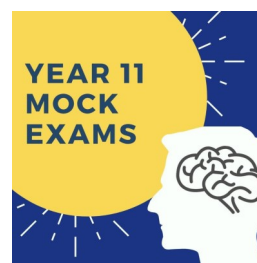
YEAR 10

Year 10 have been working tremendously hard on their language papers; the focus has been how writers use language to convey their ideas. The insight and the interpretations Year 10 have come up with have been outstanding!

YEAR 11

Year 11 have been working extremely hard this term during their third set of mock exams. As a department we have been blown away by their efforts; some exceptional responses!

Mrs Grewal
English Teacher

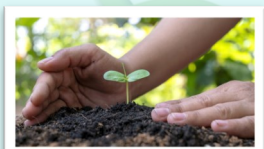


HUMANITIES

ECO CLUB

Eco club have been busy with their recycling crisp packet project and have planted 2 fruit trees in the school garden. Thanks to Miss Kirby for the trees!

The Superbloom seeds have arrived from the Tower of London and the group have been invited to see the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the Tower in July.



MICROCLIMATE INVESTIGATION

Year 7 have been making the most of the warm weather by completing their first piece of fieldwork around the school site. They have been learning about the role of the environment in affecting the microclimate along with developing their geographical skills. They have set hypotheses, identified areas of study, collected, presented and analysed data along with drawing conclusions based on their investigation. Fingers crossed for a tropical continental air mass over the UK at Easter!

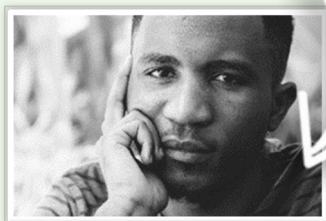


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2022

Back in January, the department delivered an assembly about the life story of Mussa Uwitonze. Mussa had to flee the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 and ended up in an orphanage where he discovered his passion for photography. This was our inspiration for the **'One Day is...'** photography competition.

The response from the students was fantastic and it was so difficult to make a shortlist of finalists. Voting has taken place and I will reveal the winners in the next newsletter.



CAN ONE PERSON MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The theme for my assembly this term was 'Can One person make a difference?' and I was so impressed by the responses from the students. The assembly also focused on the achievements of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the part he played in ending apartheid in South Africa and setting up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission afterwards.



Mr Yarwood
Head of Humanities

HISTORY

HISTORY CLUB



Finally, a big "good luck" to Year 11 geographers and historians as they start their challenging and final run into the exam season. See you at the Easter revision classes!

This half term we have been celebrating International Women's Day which happened on the 8 March. This is an international day of celebration of women's achievements, as well as an opportunity to challenge the inequality still facing women across the world today. This year's theme is around #BreakTheBias and is encouraging people to think about and challenge gender-based



stereotypes.

We spent an assembly looking at how we can all play our part to #BreakTheBias within our own lives and also within the wider school community. We then had a tutor activity which made us think about where we see gender-based stereotypes and where they might be harder to spot. We hope that this encouraged students to work towards

creating a school that really does champion 'Opportunity, Diversity and Success for all'.

In History Club, it has been wonderful to see students take the lead on running sessions around historical topics that they are passionate about. We had a fantastic session run by a Year 11 student on the LGBTQ+ history, complete with a presentation and activities for the students in attendance. We also had a Year 8 student present on the Salem Witch Trials which was really engaging and informative. It has been brilliant to see students step up and take initiative and to see them share their passion for different areas of history.

Coming up in History Club, we have students ready to present on the following topics:

- History of neurotypicality
- History of musicals
- History of the Gay Pride Movement

Miss Shepherd
History

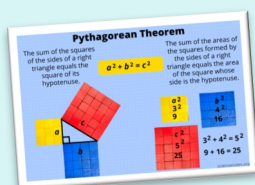
"Opportunity, diversity and success for all"

MATHS

It's been a wonderful half term; nice and short with longer days and more sunshine. But as always, we've been working hard in maths lessons.

YEAR 7

The brilliant Year 7s on the foundation track have spent their time working on percentages and fractions and are starting to work on algebra again, this time, with a focus on solving equations and inequalities. Whereas the higher track have been working on ratio and proportion, angles in parallel lines and polygons, and are starting to work on Pythagoras' theorem and trigonometry, which will continue into the summer term.



YEAR 8

Our remarkable Year 8s have worked through further trigonometry and collecting data, and they are working on displaying data through a number of graphs, including histograms and boxplots. Next, the top sets will be moving on to working with quadratics and equations and graphs of circles. The foundation track have been working on expanding and factorising quadratics, moving through increasingly complex problems involving multiplicative reasoning and ending on plans and elevations.

YEAR 9

The hard-working Year 9s have begun working on percentage calculations and the fraction decimal percentage equivalence and are soon to be starting to work with equations and inequalities which will continue into next half term. Our top set have delved back into the additional maths course this term, extending their work on ratio and proportion to dividing lines into a ratio and have breezed through the angles in polygons and between parallel lines. We're in the process of delving into Pythagoras' theorem and trigonometry, using them in a real-world context and using graphs to solve trigonometric equations and simple proofs using trigonometric Identities.

YEAR 10

Our daring Year 10s have been developing their skills using properties of shapes, parallel lines, a variety of angle facts, sampling methods and averages. They will finish out the term working on perimeter, area and volume. The top set has been working on solving quadratic equations and simultaneous equations, inequalities, probability and will be looking at applications of multiplicative reasoning at the end of the term.

MEAN vs AVERAGE	
In mathematics or statistics, you are very likely to come across two terms, average and mean. They are often used interchangeably, and many people aren't sure whether these two words refer to the same thing or not.	
MEAN	AVERAGE
1. MEAN refers to the central point of a specific list of values. In order to find it, you need to add all of the values together and then divide the result by the number of values. If the set of values is 5, 7, 8,	1. You can find yourself talking about AVERAGE and this is the middle point of all the numbers that you have. If the numbers that you have are 5, 7, 8,

SCIENCE



@mecescience

SCIENCE FUN

BREAKING GEODES
IN THE QUAD

FRUIT BATTERIES

THE SCIENCE
HOUSE QUIZ

Hello! Time has really flown, and in science, we have been very busy learning about lots of topics. The progress the students are making is very good, but, in particular, it is very lovely to see Year 7 progressing and really stretching their science brains.

YEAR 7 & 8

Year 7 and 8 have both 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, 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.

We have also recently celebrated National Science Week! This was very well attended and included science experiments in the quad, a house quiz, a staff quiz, form quiz and more!

YEAR 8

Year 8 are currently studying a topic on variation and evolution. They have particularly enjoyed working in a computer virtual lab, selectively breeding pigeons!

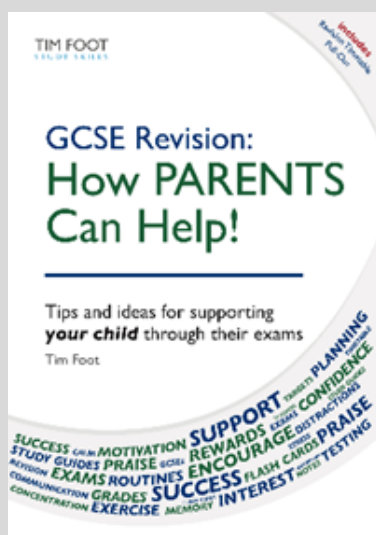
YEAR 9, 10 & 11

In KS4, Year 9, 10 and Year 11 are still very engaged and enjoying science. In the past we were very privileged to have a talk about fuel cells and hydrogen by Mr. Buche – a scientist and researcher working at Johnson Matthey laboratories in Sonning Common. The students really enjoyed the virtual talk and tour of the labs. If you have some science background and would like to give our students a virtual talk – please do let me know!

We sincerely hope that all students are happy with their current schooling. Please do let me know if there is anything that the science department can do, please don't hesitate to contact myself or your teachers.

Katy Hardman
Head of Science

YEAR 11 EXAM PREPARATION



Year 11s have been working hard preparing for exams. Students have been given lots of guidance and support including booklets about study skills advice.

Please make sure students have given you yours, as they were given a parent copy alongside the student version.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals please click [here](#) for more information.



ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

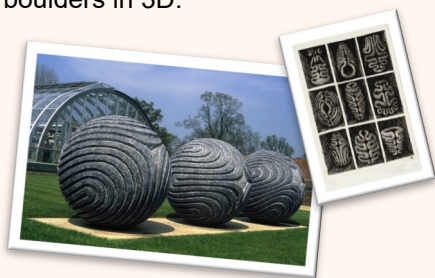


@MECEADTI

It's been another busy term in Art, Design & Technology, with our half year rotation in food & nutrition and design & technology and with our young artists developing their skills looking at a range of different artists and techniques. I hope you all have a great Easter break and make sure you keep creating, making and baking!

ART

In Art, Year 7 have been discovering the work of Peter Randall-Page, they have explored pattern making and have begun to use clay to create their own version of Randall-Page's boulders in 3D.



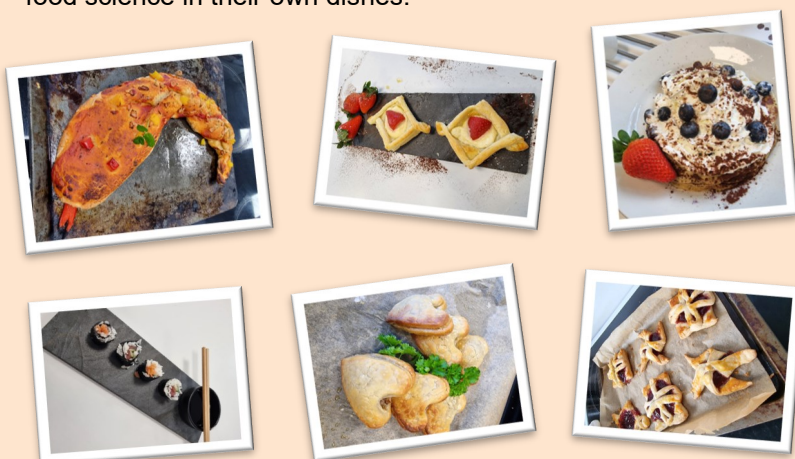
Year 8 have been looking at nature and creating ceramic responses, Year 9 are looking at the work of KAWS and using his style to create their own work.



FOOD

Mr Watterson, Head of ADT

In key stage 3, we've said goodbye to the first rotation of food students and welcomed the new cohort for the rest of the school year. Standards have been really high with some fantastic work produced. Here is a selection of their work. Year 8 Pizza, Year 9 pancakes looking at food miles and pastries with Year 9 looking at different types of pastry. My favourite sessions have been Year 8's "where in the world" mini project and Year 9's research on ethical / food science in their own dishes.



Year 11 have completed their NEA2 practical exam, so 50% of their GCSE is completed, just the written exam to go. Year 10 have been completing mock NEA2's based on religious diets with some beautiful presentation and high level skills shown.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



@mechilternedgedt

Design & Technology has been full of designing this half term. Year 7 have begun to cut the wood and draw the image to be laser engraved later in the term for their picture holder.

Year 8 have been looking at pewter, learning about the material and using this to inform their designs.

Year 9 have also been designing. Their project is the creation of a clock, drawing on computer software and then using the laser cutter to make them out of acrylic.

Year 10 have been looking at all things mechanical and material based, comparing metals and woods and their properties.



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PERFORMING ARTS



@MECE_PA

In February, the performing arts department were delighted to be able to present the school production of The Addams Family. Originally scheduled for Christmas, the show was postponed due to rising cases of Covid. Having already been affected by the pandemic, this delay was somewhat welcomed by the cast! The extra rehearsals after Christmas were as frantic as ever as some of the cast were still learning their lines! Covid continued to affect the cast and also the performing arts department, right up until the show; Miss Gardner was unable to attend the weekend rehearsal or even the show itself due to having Covid!

Throughout all the delays and stresses, the cast and supporting crew kept such wonderful enthusiasm. They were really supportive of one another and dedicated to producing a memorable

evening. On the night of the show, we enjoyed an appreciative, responsive and sold-out audience who were delighted by the great characters, songs and dances.



It is always a highlight of the year for the performing arts team to work with such passionate, committed and talented students when preparing for the school show and this year was a particularly special year.

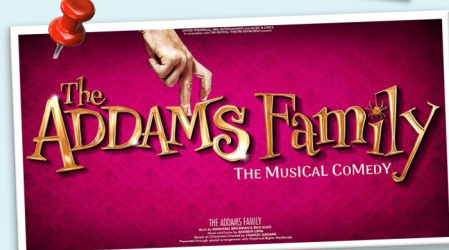
So, well done to everyone involved, it really is a whole school venture!

Mr Harte

Head of Performing Arts



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TERM DATES 2021-22**Autumn Term**

3 September - Year 7 + Year 11 only

06 September (all years) – 20 October 2021

02 November – 17 December 2021

Spring Term

04 January —18 February 2022

28 February – 08 April 2022

Summer Term

25 April – 27 May 2022

06 June – 20 July 2022

Professional Development Days

(school closed to students)

01 September 2021

02 September 2021

18 November 2021

11 February 2022

Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge

PEmatters

Issue 8 • April 2022



Click here to read

Roades Lane, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9LN Tel: 0189 972500

This term has seen students experiencing OAA, gymnastics, handball, netball and basketball within their PE lessons.

PE staff have been impressed with the attitude and commitment from students within their lessons and have seen some great progress over the course of this term.

Miss Cheeseman and Mr Hunter have been very impressed with 8A and the progress they have made within their gymnastics lessons. They have been introduced to vaulting and they were able to all include a vault within their group routine which they performed within their last gymnastics lesson of the term. Well done to all!

Next term, students will be moving onto athletics and striking and fielding within PE lessons.

We hope all students have a fantastic Easter break, keep fit and active ready to come back and smash their PE and sport when they return in two weeks. Keep us updated with all your exciting sporting activities over Easter on our social media pages!

Mr Hunter
Head of PE

Date	Sport	Year Group	Location
28 April	Netball	Year 7	MECE
3 May	Rounders	Year 11	Gillotts
10 May	Rounders	Year 10	Gillotts
17 May	Rounders	Year 9	Gillotts
19 May	Athletics – South Oxon District Trials	Years 7/8/9/10	Tisley Park Abingdon
7 June	Rounders	Year 8	Gillotts
9 June	Softball	Year 9/10	St Birinus
14 June	Quaddies – Athletics	Year 7	Gillotts
21 June	Rounders	Year 7	Gillotts
23 June	Athletics Super 6s	Year 10	Gillotts
28 June	Athletics Super 6s	Year 8/9	Gillotts
30 June	Softball	Year 7/8	St Birinus
5 July	Crickets 6s	Year 8	Boundary Park
7 July	Crickets 6s	Year 7	Boundary Park

For more information please visit: www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk Twitter: @MECEPE

"Opportunity, diversity and success for all"

MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST



If you are interested in any of these roles, please email Vicky Boatman, Clerk to the Board of Trustees via governors@maidenerleghtrust.org

THERE ARE TYPICALLY FIVE LAB MEETINGS PER YEAR PLUS THREE TRAINING SESSIONS TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT.

BE PART OF OUR GOVERNANCE TEAM OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

OUR LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Local Advisory Boards (LABs) are crucial elements of our work with schools and communities.

LAB members (Governors) are key partners to both the school and the Trust and help secure the best possible education for all learners, and best possible working environment for staff, in line with our Vision and Ethos.

The role description and person specification for Local Advisory Board Members can be found on our website.

CHAIR OF THE LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Chair of the Local Advisory Board provides leadership to the LAB and ensures that LAB members fulfil their functions for the proper governance and ethical leadership of the school.

The Chair facilitates the Local Advisory Board, working as a team to challenge, support and contribute to the effective leadership of the school.

The role description and person specification for the Chair of the Local Advisory Board can be found on our website.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED IN A ROLE?

We have a variety of Local Advisory Board Member openings available across our schools. There are also Chair of the Local Advisory Board opportunities available, to provide effective leadership to the LAB.

We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in these roles. Experience of school governance or related fields would be helpful but is NOT essential as we would provide training.

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Any queries please email us at

ParentPay@maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk



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