MECEmatters

Issue 14 + July 2022



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Reading through this document fills me with great pride. This term has been wonderful, exhilarating, exhausting and emotional. We have had a Prom, an exam season, a water sports week, our Sports Day, Transition days and Open Mornings. There have been internal exams, work experience, employment talks, our Exhibition and Dance Show, the Thorpe Park trip, Character Day and the arrival of several Ukrainian students. In other words, we are back to the hurly burly of a normal summer term and thank goodness.

The old myth is that this is an easy term, however, all the fun summer term events require planning and forethought and, in their implementation, require colleagues to cover for each other and give up their free time. All these different things that we do in the summer term add so much to our students, so it was delightful to see them rolling back out again. Amongst the students, they build resilience, relationships, develop encourage teamwork communication skills and they also allow staff to see the students in a different light and therefore develop more positive relationships as children thrive in this less conventional 'classroom'.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the OFSTED inspection in May. Of course, I have written about it in detail and as a school and a



Lastly, it is always at this time of year we say a fond farewell to colleagues leaving us. Mrs Grewal will be leaving the English department for a promotion to Blessed Hugh Faringdon School in Reading and we wish her our best. In addition, Mr Jones will be leaving us to work in Aldershot. Mr Jones does an epic commute each day by train, so I am pleased he has secured something a little closer to home. In the office we say goodbye to Ms Raza, our office manager and my PA, who is retiring and looking forward to doing some travelling as the world re-opens. We also welcome Mr Groves into the English department, Ms Jiang into the Maths team, Mrs Brown as the new music teacher Morton as the



CALENDAR

01 Sept	INSET Day
02 Sept	INSET Day
05 Sept	Term Starts for Year 7 & Year 11 Only
06 Sept	All Year Groups in School
07 Sept	Year 10 & Year 11 Parent Information Evening
08 Sept	Year 8 & Year 9 Parent
09 September	Individual School Photos
20 Sept	Year 6 Open Morning
22 Sept	Year 6 Open Morning
22 Sept	Year 7 Parent Welcome Evening
27 Sept	Open Evening-Early Close for Students @ 1:25PM

Office Manager and Annabelle Kelly as the new School Business Manager. As you can see our staffing is relatively stable and with staffing in schools being very problematic at present I am delighted to be fully staffed for September. Take care and enjoy the break!

YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP



YEAR 7

Year 7 have had a fantastic transition year, with lots of wonderful things to celebrate.

There have been many moments that have filled me with pride but to name a few: the fantastic science projects presented at the fair, attendance at clubs, becoming published authors, winning photography competitions, the castle and landscape projects in Revival history & geography, performing at Henley Youth Festival, representing the school in sports fixtures, welcoming new students, taking part in the dance



show, leading school tours, supportive friendships, playing in the band at the school show, speaking at events and many many more.

One of the stand-out moments to mention is the way in which the House Mentors supported Year 6 students during their two transition days. The House Mentors were kind, supportive, empathetic and represented the school impeccably.

Year 7 have been on a significant journey this academic year and have risen to every challenge. The progress they have made both inside and outside of the classroom has been fantastic.

I look forward to watching this cohort progress throughout secondary school and envisage an exciting future ahead. I have absolutely loved being their Head of Year and wish them the very best for their transition into Year 8.



Miss Cheeseman Head of Year 7

YEAR 8 & 9

It has been a very positive term and we have had so much to celebrate. I want to start by saying how impressed I was with the students' conduct during Ofsted, especially on the Student Panels. They represented the school so positively and the feedback was very heartening. We have been really focussing on character education this term, and our recent assemblies have looked at what it is to be part of a community - they have taken this on board and I feel that the students understand the importance of this and have embraced the initiative.

I was lucky enough to accompany Year 9 on two recent school trips; one to the Imperial War Museum and the more recent Thorpe Park visit. Finally, it felt that normality had returned and our students could enjoy these enriching experiences. On both occasions, the students were well behaved, interested and polite. In the case of the Thorpe Park visit, they showed remarkable resilience and patience when we had to wait for over an hour to be let into the park!

As you know, I aim to visit the tutor groups every day and reinforce the message that this is such an important part of the day in getting ready for learning. Thank you to all parents who have supported your son/daughter in having a full set of tools for learning (including a reading book!) and correct uniform. To the few students who haven't got it right yet, please use the summer holidays to ensure they are fully prepared for September.

For those students going into Year 9 next year, I will remain their Head of Year and look forward to overseeing their progress and improvements. I would encourage them all to take part in at least one extra-curricular activity, and attend homework club if at all possible.

Finally, I would like to wish all Year 9 students all the very best for Key Stage 4. It has been a pleasure to have been their Head of Year for the past 2 years, and despite all the disruption, they are growing into resilient, kind young people.

With very best wishes for a restful summer break.





Ms Biddiss Head of Year 8 & 9

Year 9 Getting 'Year 10 Ready'!

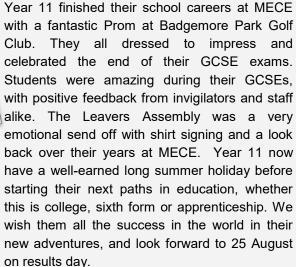
After some gruelling end-of-year exams and a number of GCSE taster sessions, Year 9 spent the afternoon considering their future. This included a discussion about what comes after GCSEs, as well as a look at some of the skills needed and expectations of GCSE-level students. Year 10 opens lots of doors but also requires lots of hard work. The year group responded with maturity and enthusiasm and we look forward to them making their transition to KS4!

Mrs Hills
Assistant Headteacher

YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 10 & 11







Year 10 are now stepping up to being the top of the school and suitable role models for our younger students. We have appointed our new Head Students, Millie M & Corey D who presented fantastically well to their year group and teachers. It was a strong field that made our decision very tough, aided by student and teacher votes. Our Head Students and Antibullying Ambassadors will be leading a whole school assembly this month on the importance of the student voice in the school community.



Homework continues to be an issue for a small minority of students, so we would encourage these students to use the Homework Club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to make sure that students are managing their time effectively if they struggle with working at home. Teachers are on hand to support students, with access to computers and printers.



Miss Jackson and Mr Reskalla are moving form groups, so we welcome Ms Hardman to 11A and Mrs Hussain to 11B in September. I would like to thank Miss Jackson and Mr Reskalla for all their hard work and dedication in supporting their forms so superbly over the years.

Mrs Ashley Head of Year 10 & 11

GOLD CLUB SUCCESSES



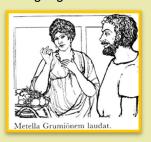
Three hard-working high-flying year 9s have been working incredibly hard this year towards their 'Higher Project Qualification'. Worth half a GCSE, this project requires them to learn some invaluable research and study skills and to complete a report of 2000 words on an area of their choosing. They presented their findings to a staff panel last week and will submit to the exam board their final reports and project logs at the end of this Academic Year. I could not be prouder of Cameron, Ben and Amelia. Very well done to them all!

Mrs Hills
Assistant Headteacher

SALVE! FROM LATIN CLUB

We have got off to a super start with Latin club and managed to get to the first attainment test just at the end of this term. Students have learned about Roman history, culture and language, and are getting to grips with some complicated grammar! Through translation and a bit of brilliant acting, students have brought to life the stories about Caecilius and Metella, and their friends and slaves, providing an amusing insight into life as a Roman. We have been lucky enough to receive a grant towards a trip to the Roman Baths next year.

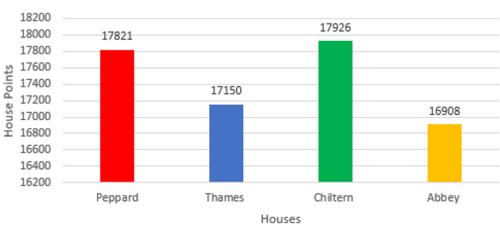
Mrs Green
Languages Curriculum Lead



HOUSE SYSTEM

CURRENT HOUSE STANDINGS CURRENT HOUSE STANDINGS





Year 7 Top House Points

Name	House Points	House
Thomas D	364	Peppard
Imogen C	321	Chiltern
Isaias C	316	Chiltern
Samuel S	306	Chiltern
Fred W	289	Chiltern
Logan S	283	Peppard
Marilyn Q	276	Thames
James H	270	Thames
Edmund C	269	Peppard
Erin C	266	Peppard

Year 9 Top House Points

Name	House Points	House
Amelia B	290	Thames
Emily N	270	Abbey
Chloe G	262	Peppard
Natasha P	231	Chiltern
Declan B C	224	Thames
Faye B	220	Abbey
Neve B	218	Abbey
Ella M	216	Chiltern
Dani T	216	Peppard
Ben W	216	Chiltern

Year 8 Top House Points

We've got the Edge

QAAA

Name	House Points	House
Emma T	499	Thames
Lola S	398	Abbey
Zoe T	386	Thames
Eleanor C	357	Chiltern
<u>Immy</u> H	345	Abbey
Sicily H	338	Peppard
Georgina I	313	Peppard
Will K	313	Thames
Ebony M	312	Thames
Kieran H	308	Abbey

Year 10 Top House Points

Name	House Points	House
Hettie Gardner	273	Thames
Zoe Blackall	269	Chiltern
Millie <u>Mogbo</u>	269	Thames
Ben Anderson	263	Chiltern
Luca Gardiner	261	Thames
Martha Griffith	259	Chiltern
Eloise <u>Perona</u>	252	Chiltern
Megan Geoffrey	246	Thames
Thomas Bourne	241	Chiltern
Amber Williams	233	Peppard

ENGLISH



WOW! What an exciting year it has been! Here in English we have accomplished so much! We have the news to share with you that Mrs Grewal will be leaving us at the end of the Summer term. We look forward to sharing

competitions, new units and new opportunities within our department next academic year!



YEAR 7

Year 7 have continued to progress and develop here at MECE. Over the summer term we have been working on descriptive writing skills developing our language. Recently, they have been learning how to link their ideas and create a big description written piece to allow them to move forward with their skills next year.

YEAR 8

Year 8 have had a wonderful year exploring some wonderful texts! Over the summer term they have worked very hard on the Sherlock Holmes genre! We are incredibly proud of all our students but Reice B, Lucas R and Jaimie F have really been outstanding this term!

YEAR 9

Year 9 have been making their way into KS4 over the past term and have worked very intensely on their annotating skills with the Power and Conflict unit for poetry which they will study further next year. This has allowed them to see the expectations for their GCSEs, but also get a head start on the content for the rest of their MECE English careers!

YEAR 10



Year 10, taking on the leadership roles in the school has been a tricky matter for the year 10s, but they have proved themselves massively within the English department. Not only have completed An Inspector Calls, they have also proven to us their ability to work unbelievably hard on their analytical writing. We are very positive as a department that we will see great things from this year group in the summer of 2023!!

YEAR 11

We were sad to wave goodbye to our year 11s in May. We were able to hold some exam paper walk-through sessions on the run up to their exams and we hope that they set them in good stead. Finally, we wish them all the very best for the future, and, as a department, we are incredibly proud of their resilience and hard work through their GCSEs!



Miss Jackson **English Teacher**

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

throughout their first year of French. They have been troubled children. learning how to describe where they live, from the rooms in the house to the surrounding area. We had some great ideas about la maison de mes rêves! We have launched the French Film Festival with a popular family comedy based on the French literary classic, Le Petit Nicholas.

from streaming their favourite shows to listening to music recommended Duolingo for over the holidays and see if and playing video games on the bus! For the French Film they can get onto a winning streak! Festival we are continuing with the sequel, Le Petit Nicholas en Vacances. C'est hilarant!

In year 9 we have been tackling the imperfect tense by talking about what we used to be like when we were younger and comparing primary school life with life at MECE. The French Film Festival choice has been Les Choristes, an award winning French musical drama about

Year 7 have shown off their language skills, honed the power of music in a post-war boarding school for

Year 10 have made us proud taking on the role of most senior year in the school. They took their PPEs very seriously and know what they have to do as next steps to making progress. Year 10 have covered the topic of Home/Local environment and Life at school. Weekly Year 8 have learned to talk about what they do online, vocab tests will continue into Y11. Ms Biddiss has

Bonne vacances à tous!





Mrs Green MFL Curriculum Lead

HUMANITIES

GEOGRAPHY

Year 7 have been investigating Global issues this term and debating themes around plastic pollution and the energy crisis. They produced some excellent thought-provoking presentations about the controversial fracking process and whether the UK should pursue this further.





Year 8 have been finding all about the geography involved in organising music festivals, such as Glastonbury and Reading. They have described the site and situation of festival sites, assessed the risk of flooding (using flood maps from the Environment Agency), evaluated the environmental impact of festivals and suggested strategies to reduce this. We may now have some budding Events Organisers of the future!

Year 9 have been looking at Globalisation and the role of TNCs (transnational corporations). They have shared some very insightful comments about the fashion industry and how it could be more sustainable in the future.





Year 10 students managed to carry out some GCSE fieldwork in Henley despite the torrential downpours. They were collecting data to assess the economic impact of tourism in the town. In October, they will travel to Amersham Field Studies Centre to carry out a river enquiry. Wellies definitely needed then!

RE IS BACK!

looking Finally. are forward to welcoming RE fully back into the curriculum next academic vear where students in KS3 will have one hour per week. Their first challenging topic will be looking at what is meant by philosophy and provide students the opportunity to question assumptions make about our lives and really dig in to the details of why we think what we think and how we choose to act. Have a fantastic Summer break and thanks for all your support this year!

Mr Yarwood Head of Humanities



HISTORY

In History this term, we have introduced a new topic to Year 8 on the history of India. With such a large population of Indian diaspora in Britain, it is important to have a curriculum that represents diversity. As part of this, we have partnered up with the Reading charity RISC to create and trial resources that will be shared with teachers across the country. As well as studying the history of India, we have also been considering what it is like to be of Indian heritage living in Britain today, considering key concepts such as xenophobia and disparity in people affected by COVID19. The students have really enjoyed studying a history that they knew little about, with one student commenting Ή interesting to learn not only about things that happened in the past but also about recent history and how things change. Such as, people's views British Indians

xenophobia today.'

Miss Shepherd even had the opportunity to showcase some of our Year 8 work at a presentation at RISC. This was attended by the right Worshipful Mayor of Reading cll Rachel Eden and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Reading, Robert Van de Noort who were both very



impressed by the work produced by our students and teachers.

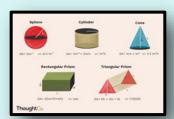
Miss Shepherd History

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.

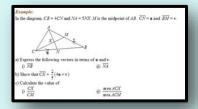
YEAR 7

The brilliant Year 7s on the foundation track have been working on statistics and sampling, including work on averages, perimeter and area of shapes. Whereas on the higher track they have worked on non-linear graphs, circumference, area of circles and translating that into 3-D involving volume and surface area.



YEAR 8

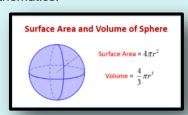
Our awesome Year 8s on the higher track have been working on vector geometry and proofs, including direct and inverse proportions. While on the higher track they have been working on indices and standard form and similarity and congruence in 2-D shapes and vectors.



YEAR 9

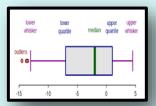
The ever-industrious Year 9s have begun working on non-linear graphs, circumference and area of circles,

segments, sectors and arc lengths of various sizes, volume and surface area of cylinders, cones and spheres. The foundation groups have been developing their skills to averages and discuss which average should be best to use along with reasons. In addition to this, the higher set sat 2 (of 3) papers of the higher tier and the majority outstripped their results on the foundation tiers with several looking like they will easily make the highest grades in GCSE mathematics and in additional mathematics.



YEAR 10

The Year 10s working towards the foundation exam have been developing their skills using ratio and solve proportion to problems, developing their ability to use Pythagoras and trigonometry. They have had a full GCSE Paper and are aware of how to continue to excel next year. The students on the higher paper have been working on nonright angle triangle trigonometry, cumulative frequency and boxplots and histograms, both drawing and using them to compare data sets.



Mr Jones Maths Teacher

RUNNING CLUB



Running Club is thriving in this warmer weather! It has grown in popularity as we approach summer, with last week's scorcher seeing our biggest numbers yet! We have made use of the running track on the field and have practised relays and sprints more than longer distance. As welcome diversion, by popular demand, there was even bit of rounders!

We have had a fabulous of committed group regulars this year, who have attended come rain or shine. They have pushed themselves encouraged others: big shout out to James H, Jorgia P, Samantha H and Mason P! However, the award for the most committed and consistent attendee goes to Marylin Q. who has been to every session!

Well done everyone!

Ms Green
MFL Curriculum Lead

STFM

In June, a number of KS3 students took part in a design competition that Samsung ran. It was to create a new use for an old mobile phone. There were a number of creative ideas from the team that took part.

Well done to Samuel S, Thomas D, Cameron V, Imogen C and Edmund C for their participation and innovative ideas.





SCIENCE





I can't believe it is the end of another school year. A lot has happened within the science department and I am very proud of the progress made by both students and staff this year. We have lots of plans for September including more trips, extra-curricular clubs and competitions. It has been a pleasure to lead the science department this year and I forward look continuing in my role as Head of Science next year.

YEAR 7 & 8

Year 7 had a rocky start to science this year, loss of learning through lockdown really left us with a general picture of lower than average progress in science. However, with some additional learning and a tweak of our scheme of work, Year 7s really showed great resilience and have made outstanding progress.

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 9, 10 & 11

Year 9 have risen to the challenge of GCSE science brilliantly and Year 10 are now 75% through the science course. The recent Thorpe Park trip was testament to how much these students have matured as they were all responsible and returned back to the meeting point on time!

Year 11 had a great year, full of the normal trials and tribulations for a GCSE year but with the added complexity of advanced information. We are very proud of the Year 11s and wish them well.

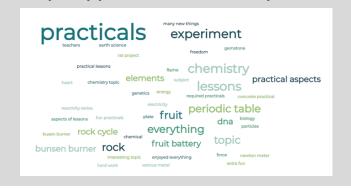
We sincerely hope that all students are happy with their current schooling. Please do let me know if there is anything that the Science department can do, please don't hesitate to contact myself or your teachers.



Katy Hardman Head of Science

YEAR 11 EXAM PREPARATION

Some recent responses from a KS3 student survey about science indicated that 100% of students enjoyed science this year. I have generated a word cloud out of the responses for the key question - What have you enjoyed most about science this year?



DO YOU WORK IN SCIENCE?

If you have some science background and would like to give our students a virtual talk – please do let me know!

k.hardman@maidenerleghtrust.org



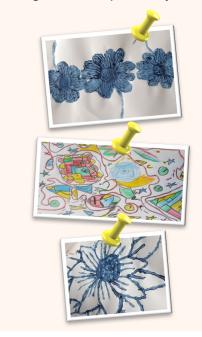
ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



It's been another busy year in Art, Design & Technology, with many fantastic creations 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 summer break and make sure you keep creating, making and baking!

ART

In Art Year 7 have been discovering architecture including the work of John Piper, Year 8 have been looking at Surrealism and revisiting techniques, Year 9 are looking at a range of Techniques ready for GCSE.



FOOD

In Key Stage 3, standards have been really high with some fantastic work produced. Here is a selection of their work. Year 8 Great British Bake Menu, Year 9 investigation food science with honeycomb, puff pastry and raising agents. My favourite practicals have seen Year 10 develop their skills in presentation, time management and developing their dishes in exciting and delicious ways practicing ahead of the NEAs in Year 11 and tnot forgetting the taster sessions for Year 9!!



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Design & Technology has been full of making and creating. Year 7 have finished their picture holder and created wooden knot toys.

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

Year 9 have concluded their clock project and started exploring architecture in research and basic mock up models, while Year 10 have begun their GCSE NEA.





PERFORMING ARTS



@MECE_PA

DRAMA

Year 7

Having studied the performance style of physical theatre last term, where we look at how communicate some abstract ideas through movement and performers physicality, Year 7 students have been studying the exaggerated performance style of melodrama. Many have frequently told me they like melodramatic, so we have tried to put that to good use as we have explored the historical context of the style and its key features!

Year 8

After Easter, Year 8 students did some script work on Shakespeare's murderous Macbeth. In this unit, we focused on how to communicate character through Shakespearean language and how to create mood and atmosphere using some technical elements of theatre, including lighting and sound. More students have recently, exploring a range of materials from Amnesty International as a starting moving and point to create a thoughtful piece of drama while developing social their historical knowledge of a range of issues around human rights.

Year 9

During term 5, Year 9 watched a production called *Cookies* which tackles some very challenging topics that affect many young people



across the country. This includes issues around gang culture, knife crime, and the dangers of social media/relationships online. We then used this show to inform some of our own performance work. In this final term of the year, students have been studying a much lighter source: *Teechers* by John Godber. In this comedy play, students have been utilizing their multirolling skills when approach a selection of key scenes.

Year 10

At the time of writing, Year 10 students drama have just completed their first drama performance exam. For this unit, students are given a stimulus by the exam board from which they create a performance. Overall, students have worked really hard on this and produced engaging performances which allowed them to demonstrate their talents. Next stop is the written coursework, hurrah!



Tom Harte
Head of Performing Arts

SCHOOL SHOW



We recently held auditions for next year's school show.

I am very pleased to say that the quality of many of the auditions was really high this year and the task of casting the show was a real challenge due to the many talented students wanting key roles.



If anyone who is involved in the school show is yet to collect their script, please can they do so before the summer holidays. They need to get their lines learnt!



CAREERS

As we approach the end of this academic, we would like to share with you some of the activities which have been taking place as part of our careers and work-related programme at MECE!



YEAR 10 CAREERS CONVERSATIONS

It's never too soon to start talking about your next steps. We are pleased that every Year 10 student will have had a 30 minute careers conversation with our Trust Careers Adviser, Mrs Anna Finlason, by the end of term! This time will enable students to start thinking about, and planning for, their next steps after Year 11. Our current Year 10 students will start their applications for Sixth Forms / Colleges +/-Apprenticeships during the Autumn of this year, during Year 11. Time flies by, but students have started thinking and preparing which is fantastic!

UNIFROG CAREERS PLATFORM COMING SOON!

We are excitedly waiting for the point at which students will be able to login to their personal UNIFROG Profile and begin to explore and utilise this fantastic careers platform.

unifrog

Students will be able to learn more about themselves through Interests,
Personality and Work environments profile questionnaires. They will also be
able to explore school subjects and careers, as well as future destination
options within Further Education, Higher Education, and Apprenticeship opportunities. Another
great feature is a list of MOOCs (free online courses) and webinars students can sign up to

attend and complete. We can't wait for every student to experience UNIFROG soon!

CAREERS WEEK

During the penultimate week of school, MECE celebrated the third and final 'Careers Week' for this academic year. Each trust school takes it in turn to provide resources for the week. Careers Week 2 it was the turn of MECE and Mrs Chopra created some fantastic resources. For the third 'Careers Week' Maiden Erlegh Reading School chose 'Climate Change' as a topic and shared some fantastic resources for students and Teachers at MECE to study – including:

Exploring careers and climate change and sustainability and hot topics such as:

- •What does it mean to be green?
- •'Brain drain'
- Country efforts activity
- Subject specific career spotlight
- •Extra reading material has also been provided

Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge - May 18-20: Year 10 Work Experience and Careers Event

Workshops and sessions included:

- CV & Cover Letter workshop
- Interview Techniques & dress to impress workshop
- Mini Careers Fair
- Attendance at 'A Day in the Life...' seminars led by a fantastic group of outside employers arranged by Mrs Chopra
- · Payslip & Budgeting workshop
- Exploring careers sectors and jobs workshop
- Strengths & Skills workshop

STUDENTS AND COLLEGES IN ACTION AT MECE

Year 10 students enjoyed 3 days of workshops and sessions organised by the Careers Team and greatly supported by Teachers and Mr Hartley.

The highly successful event ended on Friday 20 June with a talk from Mr Hartley who shared sage wisdom about making post 16 decisions.

Each student was presented with a well-deserved 'Certificate of Attendance'.

Students reported they learned a great deal to help them prepare for their future after school.

We thank every employer for coming to MECE to share inspirational, informative and wise career information & advice.





Students spoke with representatives from bca, henley college, reading boys school, reading college, & utc reading. We thank every representative for attending.

Term Dates 2022/2023

Autumn Term

05 September - Year 7 & Year 11 only

06 September (all years) – 21 October 2022

31 October - 16 December 2022

Spring Term

03 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)

Thursday 1 September 2022

Friday 2 September 2022

Friday 25 November 2022

Friday 10 February 2023

Wednesday 5 July 2023



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