

MECEmatters

Issue 15 • October 2022



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Guardians

Well, its half-term and whilst we all love our jobs and being at school, we're also rather pleased to have a week off!

This half term has seen so much take place and you can see from this packed edition of MECE Matters the school is busier than ever. We're thriving rather than surviving as the list below shows:

Our recent CESA quiz with 80 parents raising over a thousand pounds for the school, our open events with over 300 families visiting the school, our biggest Year 7 intake for many years all demonstrate the new vibrancy here at MECE. Moreover, this week the unvalidated exam results for last summer's exams were published and it was good to see MECE well above all but two of the secondary schools in Reading. The wonderful service of commemoration that we held for our Queen also said so much about the culture of our school with the students observing the ceremony with such great respect.

I had the pleasure this week of visiting all of the Year 7 tutor groups and we asked them to write down 'The best thing about MECE'. It is so lovely to read all their responses but what shines through is the love of the MECE community, the warm friendly staff who always try and support, the food, the lovely breaktimes and clubs and the chance to learn new skills and subjects. It made me very proud to see how much these young people were enjoying their time at our school.

Next term we will continue our push on engagement in lessons, using the first week back to further clarify and rehearse our routines and expectations. I will be holding a Parent Forum on Wednesday, 9 November at 6.30pm to discuss this further along with our plans moving forwards.

I hope you are all able to have a great half-term and get some rest and relaxation. The next half-term brings PPEs for Year 11, the school show, the launch of this year's Higher Ability programme and many other highlights



CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 31 Oct | Back to school |
| 31 Oct - 4 Nov | Year 11 PPE 1 (Mocks) |
| 4 Nov | South Oxfordshire Triathlon |
| 8 Nov | South Oxon Primary School Cross Country |
| 9 Nov | Parent Forum @ 18:30 |
| 10 Nov | Henley College Taster Day |
| 11 Nov | STEM Workshops Y7/8/9 |
| 24 Nov | Presentation Evening (by invitation) |
| 1 Dec | Year 11 Results and Parent's Evening |
| 8 Dec | Year 9 HAP Science Trip (Oxford) |
| 13 & 15 Dec | School Performance of 'A Christmas Carol' |
| 16 Dec | End of Term 12:30 finish |

so make sure your young person returns to school fully equipped, with the correct uniform and ready to learn.

YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 7



What a fantastic first term for Year 7! After a hugely successful first day in September the year group have continued to go from strength to strength. There have been lots of exciting things happening but I would like to highlight a few in particular.

Firstly, it was wonderful to see so many students put themselves forward to be School Council Representatives and House Ambassadors, it is so important to play an active part in the school community. I received lovely feedback from teachers and prospective parents following the Open Evening, at which many Year 7 students volunteered and represented the school impeccably. It has been wonderful to see all of Year 7 engaging so well with older students during House Mentoring on a Monday morning too!

It was fabulous to welcome author Jess Butterworth to school, for a whole year group workshop – special congratulations to the winners of the 'Running on the Roof of the World' competition, who enjoyed a lunch with Jess! I have thoroughly enjoyed following the journey of our Year 7 boys rugby team this season and taking students on their first ever MECE fixtures. It has also been great to see so many Year 7s at girls' football club on Wednesday lunch time and afterschool on a Tuesday, I'm looking forward to your fixtures starting next term! Finally, it was so great to listen to the students present their brilliant work at the Science Fair, congratulations to the winners.

I hope Year 7 enjoy a well-deserved break. It has been a term full of success and I've no doubt this positive momentum will continue.

Miss Cheeseman
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8 & 9

I can't believe how quickly this term has gone, and how much has been going on!

Both year groups have made a very positive start and I have had the pleasure of being able to visit many lessons to see how hard they are working and how engaged they are. I continue my daily rounds of visiting each tutor group in the morning and am pleased to report that each tutor group is calm and focused, engaged in the relevant activity. So far this term we have had assemblies on Keeping Safe, Mental Health Awareness, Black History Month and European Day of Languages. I have been very impressed with the students' responses to these topics, which have generated interesting discussions during tutor time.

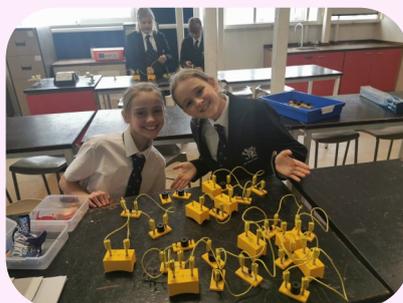
In lessons, focus and concentration are key. It is a pleasure to visit lessons where students are clearly working hard and enjoying their learning – from seeing some fascinating science experiments, being drawn in by amazing smells from the food tech room and seeing them hard at work in English lessons, clearly interested in the literature they are studying.

We strongly encourage all students to take part in an extra-curricular activity, so if they haven't already done so, do please continue to encourage your son/daughter to think about what they would like to do. I would also like to remind you that Homework Club runs every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and is staffed by teachers who are more than willing to help!

A special mention must go to all the Year 8 and 9 student volunteers who helped out at our very well-attended open evening and mornings. The feedback from visitors was incredibly positive and we are very proud of them all, great ambassadors for the school. We continue to go from strength to strength!

Ms Biddiss
Head of Year 8 & 9

STEM CLUB PREPARE FOR ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE



I have been really impressed with how engaged the students have been with STEM Club this term. Our theme has been '*surviving a zombie apocalypse*'. We have designed and created pressure pads using buzzers and circuits, built catapults, tested the properties of slime (zombie brains!) and built compasses. Well done to all those who have attended every week.

Miss Swayne
Science Teacher

YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 10 & 11



I was lucky enough to accompany Year 10 Art & Photography on their trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park. The students were fantastically well behaved, and it was a pleasure to spend the day with them. The majority of Year 10 have started with a very positive attitude to their GCSE courses and are working well, but a few need to remember to keep up to date with homework and put that extra effort in. Part of the tutor routine are recap & revision activities to get that knowledge embedded from the core subjects. Science have been completing assessments so students have had the opportunity for a progress check.

Year 11 have been attending their afterschool revision sessions ahead of their PPE examinations. These PPE exams are so important as these grades are often used by colleges and sixth forms in their application process when issuing conditional offers. The PPE exams start after half term.

So far, Year 11 have taken part in the UNLOC Enterprise Day and demonstrated excellent entrepreneurial skills and have submitted CVs and covering letters ahead of their mock interviews. There has been lots of information about post-16 provisions and careers support, with information assemblies hosted by BCA, Reading College, Piggotts School and Highdown Sixth Form Centre. Next will be the Taster Day Sessions at Henley College in November - more information to follow. Year 11 have also started thinking ahead to fundraising for their Prom so expect some exciting ideas coming after the exams!

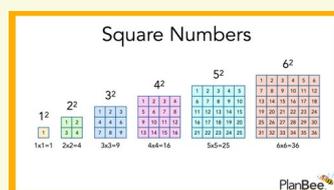
A plea about uniforms and jewellery - blazers are required and skirts should be knee length. One plain set of earring studs is permitted, and no nose piercings. If nose studs/ rings cannot be removed, a plaster to cover it will be required. Many thanks for your support with this.

Mrs Ashley
Head of Year 10 & 11

MATHS

YEAR 7

At the start of this term, we welcomed the new Year 7s who have set off on a flying start. They have been studying whole numbers, decimals, rounding, discovering negative numbers and all about the special numbers: squares, cubes, roots and writing powers. The higher track have



also been working hard on numbers but going into more depth and finding error interval and working with numbers in standard form. During the end of this half-term, Year 7



students have also been given the opportunity to celebrate Black History month by learning about the African – American astronomer and mathematician Benjamin Banneker and creating some wonderful clocks which we will report about in the next newsletter.

YEAR 8

Year 8s this first half – term have concentrated more on shapes, finding areas and volume and working on graphs. The higher track have also been solving quadratic equations in various methods.

YEAR 9

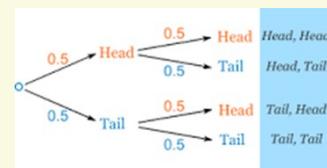
Year 9 higher track have truly risen to the challenge of our ambitious curriculum and have been working on surds at

grade 7/8. The other Year 9 students have also been working on numbers, rounding, estimating, factor trees and other special numbers. They have also been attempting various money problems to develop their reasoning.

YEAR 10

Year 10s higher track have been transforming shapes and developing their fluency in constructions and loci and expanding multiple brackets towards the end of this half-term. The rest of Year 10 have revisited shapes, area and volume and developed their graphing skills and interpretation.

YEAR 11



Year 11s have started the year studying about probability, and in particular; tree diagrams, quadratic expressions and equations and graphs. They have also been revising and preparing for the November PPEs. We encourage all Year 11s to spend some time revising during the half-term break using materials that have been provided by teachers and online websites such as Hegarty Maths and corbettmaths.com.

We wish the Year 11s all the very best in their upcoming mock exams.



Mrs Giordan
Head of Maths

ENGLISH



WELCOME BACK TEAM!!!!



Over the summer holidays the English department were working incredibly hard to create new content for the classroom, new opportunities beyond the classroom, higher level enrichment opportunities plus we have welcomed Mr Groves into the department and you have all made him feel very welcome indeed!

We had a very enjoyable Open Evening in September, it was lovely to see so many parents and potential students interested in our department and asking lots of insightful questions. A massive thank you to our helpers: Mal, Leon, Harry, Eloise, Daisy, Zara, Kerise, Neve and Leah.

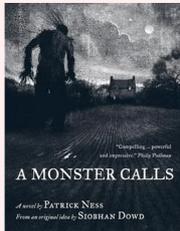


As a department we have hosted Debate Club and Creative Writing Club. Miss Jackson and Mrs Hussain have also been working closely with

the Reading Ambassadors about some upcoming projects – watch this space!!

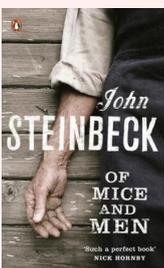
YEAR 7

This half term year 7 have been reading *A Monster Calls*, a class favourite. They have been working explicitly on language analysis and developing their vocabulary. Year 7 have made a great start to MECE and we have been overwhelmed with their amazing support of the English department! Their homework unit this term has been completing a booklet, which they have taken pride in doing each week and are always very keen to show their teachers what they have done.



Students have began reading at the start of every English lesson and we have noticed how engaged the year 7s are during this time and their love for reading is very clear.

YEAR 8

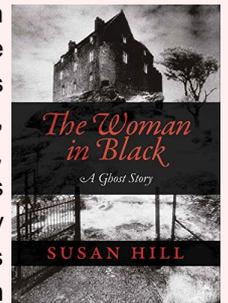


This half term year 8 have been looking at *Of Mice and Men*. As a department, we have been blown away with the progression they have made over the summer holidays, they have shown maturity when reading such a difficult text with complex themes. We have focused on many important aspects of

the novel this term, especially with Black History Month being a prominent element that we wanted to highlight through the use of literature. Year 8 were given a homework menu this term and they have thoroughly enjoyed ticking off each task they have completed each week. They have been working hard on their character analysis and connecting different points of the novel to the character's feelings. This half term, year 8 have also begun their speaking and listening practicing for their end of term assessment. This involved them working in groups to create an argument/speech towards a statement given to them. This activity worked incredibly well and it was very clear to see the knowledge from the past 7 weeks being shared in groups and collated into a speech.

YEAR 9

Year 9 have been focusing on language paper 1 written skills. We have been looking at short extracts linking to the 'dare the scare' unit, such as *Dracula*, *Woman in Black*, *The Birds* and so on. This has involved zooming in on key techniques and analysis of the texts and trying to develop an understanding of why the writers have chosen the style of writing and what effect this has on the reader. The students have been able to identify key horror motifs and have been able to use this to also write their own horror stories, involving key techniques. We have been very pleased with year 9's engagement throughout this term.



YEAR 10

What a great start year 10 have had to the start of their GCSEs! Year 10 have come back to school with a bang and we have been delighted with the hard work they have shown already! This half term year 10 have been looking back over *A Christmas Carol*, however this time, they have been developing their analysis of the text and working exceptionally hard to develop their writing skills also. We have been very impressed with the maturity they have shown thus far and the clear dedication they have to their GCSEs. Over the next term they will be continuing annotations to wider their knowledge of the text. Keep up the amazing work year 10!!!



ENGLISH

YEAR 11

We still can't believe that this cohort is officially Year 11! This term Year 11 have been focusing on *Macbeth*, they have been annotating the play, learning quotations, debating about characters and developing their analytical skills through essay writing. The discussions in lesson time have been amazing to hear and to be a part of, as it shows the students have a clear understanding of the text and the ideas within. We have been very proud of the work shown in lesson time and the ideas that have been shared from pupils. We are using challenging questions to develop their understanding further and challenging them to aim for the best possible outcomes. Year 11 recently had a revision session after school which involved a walking-talking-mock. This worked extremely well as students were able to see model answers and then develop their own writing, having seen what is expected from the mark scheme.

Going forward, year 11, remember to be learning



your quotations, practicing your timed writing skills and continue to work hard in all lessons! Keep up the great work year 11!!

Miss Jackson
English Teacher

HUMANITIES



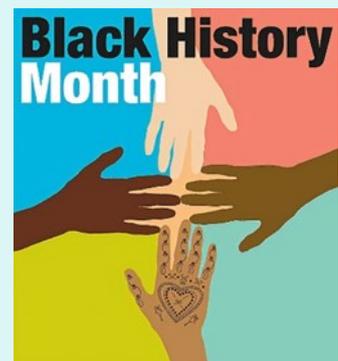
We were so proud to showcase our department during the recent Open Evening. There was a range of activities ranging from 'Poos from the Past', test your knowledge about world religions to our annual Flag Quiz. A big thank you to our student helpers on the night – they were so enthusiastic, helpful and welcoming!



HISTORY

October is International Black History Month in the UK and this year's theme is 'Sharing Journeys' - an exploration of the lives and stories of the people who came to Britain in the 19th and 20th centuries and helped lay the foundations of today's diverse Black British Community. Whilst this is something we study in history throughout the year, we want to take some time in October to really focus on this. During our assemblies, Miss Shepherd has been sharing different stories of inspirational black people, celebrating black achievement as well as aiming to challenge some of the racial stereotyping and discrimination that is still prevalent in our society today. She taught everyone about Kemi Badenoch, the politician who overcame significant challenges to become a contender for Prime Minister.

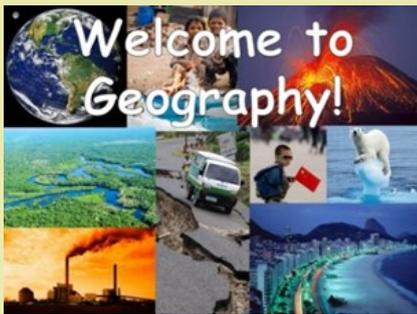
During lesson times, we have been studying a range of black history, from the North Africans who built Hadrian's Wall in AD122 as well as looking at different black Tudors and the influence of black jazz during the Weimar Republic. The hope is that students understand and embrace the beautiful diversity of history and learn to challenge misconceptions about racial history.



"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." – Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress in 1968.

Miss Shepherd
History

GEOGRAPHY



Welcome to Geography!

YEAR 7

I have been so impressed with their knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject so far. Their workbooks are a delight too. They have been investigating some amazing places from around the world including Antarctica, The Serengeti, Yellowstone National Park and Disney theme parks and discovering what geography is all about.

YEAR 8

Students have been building on their field work skills from Year 7 and this time investigating the school environment. They have discussed primary and secondary data, sampling techniques as well as writing a formal report based on their findings. As always, evaluating the methods used and questioning the reliability of their results are important parts of the enquiry process.



YEAR 9

Year 9 have been looking at world population change and how some countries try to manage their population growth. Lots of interesting



discussions points about China's One Child Policy. Has it been a success? I look forward to reading their extended pieces of writing.

YEAR 10

A term spent focusing on natural hazards, in particular tectonic hazards. Students have been looking at why volcanoes and earthquakes occur at different plate margins and how humans respond to living in areas at risk. They have been comparing two earthquakes in detail (Chile and Nepal) and evaluating whether long term responses are more important than short term responses.

YEAR 11



Year 11 have been discussing really challenging questions about the changing economic world and how the gap between rich and poor countries could be reduced.

More recently they have been preparing for their trip to Amersham field study centre. Here, they will investigate how the River Chess changes downstream. This is their second compulsory fieldwork after a rather wet visit to Henley in July. Fingers crossed for better weather this time!



Mr Yarwood

Curriculum lead for Humanities

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY



We are so pleased that Religion and Philosophy has returned to the KS3 curriculum on a weekly basis. All students have been finding out what is meant by Philosophy this term and learning about the impact of Philosophers on society such as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle.

Have a lovely half term break and many thanks for all your support!

CLUBS AHoy!



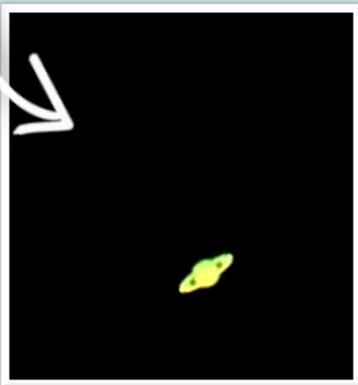
We have been absolutely THRILLED with the way students have thrown themselves into MECE life and, in particular, their engagement with clubs and fixtures. Please encourage your children to participate in at least one lunchtime or afterschool club and to make the most of homework club, which runs afterschool every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

To see the up to date extra-curricular timetable click the link to the school website [HERE](#).

ASTRONOMY EVENING



This term, Mrs Hardman arranged an awe-inspiring evening of stargazing for students that have demonstrated a particular interest in all things space. The evening was hosted by the wonderfully knowledgeable Reading Astronomy Society. There were space rocks to pick up and examine, lectures about colliding galaxies and space photography, all finished off with the opportunity to view the stars and moon using the Reading Astronomy Society's telescopes (and binoculars)!! There were gasps of awe as students, parents and teachers viewed the planet Saturn and it's rings and Jupiter and four of it's moons. Truly super!



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

MECE PHOTOGRAPHERS MAKE US PROUD

For European Day of Languages, students from all schools in the trust were given the chance to use their creative photography skills to capture a shot that represents language in any form. They then had to submit their picture via Google Classrooms for judgement by the three Headteachers of the three schools. The top three photos came from other trust schools, but we are really proud of our MECE enties with special mentions to the runners up, Zemirah W, Ines L and Ruby P.

MECE 1st place winner was Paige B-M for her creative entry...



And 2nd place was Eleanor L for her colourful entry!

Ms Green

MFL Curriculum Lead

ANOTHER WINNER...!

Year 7's Grace C is the winner of the school's European Day of Languages competition. She found the most members of staff who speak a foreign language, filling 3 pages!!

Very Inspiring Grace!! Well done!



OLD UNIFORM PLEASE!



CESA — our hard-working PTA will be holding another second hand uniform sale soon, so please consider passing on any uniform that your child has now outgrown, as long as it is in good, clean order — thank you!

SCIENCE



@mecescience

SCIENCE FUN

YEAR 7 & 8



YEARS 9 & 10 & 11



Hello!

Well I can't believe it's only been 6 weeks since the start of term! A lot has happened in such a short amount of time.

YEAR 7 & 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 and not too many lightbulbs from Year 8. My particular favourite was the toilet, because (as the student said) can you imagine your life without one?!

Year 8 also celebrated Global Space week by zooming with satellite scientists from all over the world. It was a very interesting talk and, hopefully, year 8 realised that space is not only about planets and stars.

YEAR 9, 10 & 11

Year 9 have kicked off their GCSE studies extremely well. Their recent test showed some pleasing progress and Miss Swayne, Mr Mrs Kirby and I are really enjoying teaching Year 9. Each class is very different but all are engaged

and interested in learning. Well done in particular to Sophie F who was our first Science Masterpiece to go on the notice board.

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 to help your child's learning.

The science department is moving from strength to strength. I am currently privileged to be going into our feeder primary schools to give science assemblies to Year 5 and 6. This will help strengthen ties to those primary school and prepare students for moving into science at secondary school – a big step up!

Please follow us on Twitter, where we share lots of the exciting things we do, our handle is at the top of the page!

Ms Hardman
Head of Science



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!



ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



It's been another busy term in Art, Design & Technology, with our young artists, chefs and designers developing their skills looking at a range of different techniques. I hope you all have a great autumn break and make sure you...keep creating, making and baking.

ART

Year 7 have been discovering the work of Mark Hearld and developing their knowledge of the formal elements of Art; Year 8 have been looking at Food Art including the work of Sarah Graham. Year 9 are looking at figures and the human form. Year 10 Art and Photography students enjoyed a trip to Cotswold Wild Life Park to collect primary source material for their first project.

FOOD



In the kitchen, we've said hello to first rotation of food students. 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 exploring eggs looking at frittata. My favourite practical's have been year 10's upside down cake and their experiment to find the best methods to produce chips.

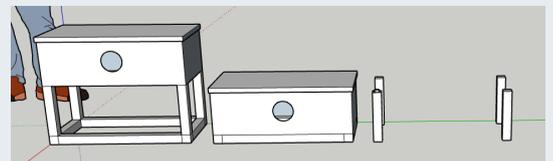


KS4 students have created a series of dishes building on their skills from their work in year 10 and year 9 respectively. Mrs Hardman has joined the department, helping students to explore the food science elements of GCSE Food and Nutrition!



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Design & Technology has been full of designing and research this half term. With KS3 looking at designers such as Max Lamb and Charles and Ray Eames. KS4 have developed their use of SketchUp and begun looking at the theory behind Design and Technology.



PERFORMING ARTS



@MECE_PA

DRAMA

Rehearsals are in full swing in the Performing Arts department. Those in the cast have been involved in acting, singing and dance rehearsals as we prepare for our production of *A Christmas Carol* this December. Details of how to purchase tickets will be made available as we approach the festive holidays.

Year 7

Year 7 this term have really impressed Mr. Harte and Miss Gardner with their work on duologues. Students across the year group were thrown in the deep at the start of the year by performing a two-person scene in front of their entire class by their third week at MECE. The quality of these performances from the enthusiastic students who had learnt their lines off by heart was really exciting to see!

Year 8

In year 8, students have been looking at a story of a boy called Joe who is experiencing lots of challenges in his life. Through performance and drama, we have been exploring how this character might be supported and how they might be affected by the variety of social issues they are experiencing. We have been aiming to engage with this serious subject matter with maturity and sensitivity as we develop our empathy and understanding of some challenging subject material.

Year 9

For students in year 9, we have been looking at how to successfully create mood and atmosphere on stage by focusing on the more subtle and intense side of performance. Aiming to

create dramatic tension on stage, students have explored how lighting, sound, use of silence and use of voice can be employed to have a direct impact on an audience.

Year 10

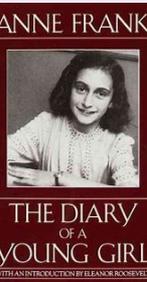
Year 10 have made excellent progress this term in the quality of their performance work. Now armed with a better understanding of structure, stage configuration and communication of meaning to an audience, students have been applying their newly acquired knowledge to performances inspired by the life and diaries of Anne Frank.

Year 11

As our older students embark on their final year at MECE, year 11 drama students have been revisiting their set text of *Blood Brothers* with lots of exam practice. Lots of progress is being made in the quality of analytical and evaluative writing which is promising as the students



approach their upcoming set of PPEs. I hope the revision books that have been lent will be well thumbed over the coming weeks and months!



Tom Harte
Head of Performing Arts

MUSIC

**Year 7**

Year 7 have been developing their instrumental skills on both keyboards and ukuleles. They have learnt to play chords on both instruments which we have used to play a variety of popular songs, including Happier by Marshmello and Counting Stars by One Republic. They have also completed a listening and rhythmic baseline assessment and are about to start developing their vocal skills which they will then combine with their keyboard / ukulele skills in group performances.

Year 8

Year 8 have also been using keyboards to develop their understanding of chords and harmony. They have combined chord sequences with bass lines to good effect, whilst developing their understanding of structure and texture. This is to improve both their solo and ensemble performance skills. They are moving on to study riffs and hooks (the parts of the song that get stuck in your memory!) increasing their understanding of musical notation at the same time.

Year 9

Year 9 have focused on the structure and texture of popular songs and have learnt melodies, chord sequences and bass lines. The music we have covered ranges from the Beatles and Ben E King to Jessie J and Emile Sande. They have used a variety of instruments including keyboards, guitars and ukuleles. This is to improve both their solo and ensemble performance skills. They are developing their musical skills in preparation for choosing their own pieces to enter a 'Battle of the Bands' style competition.

Becki Brown
Music Teacher

DANCE FROM SUMMER TERM 2022

Please accept our apologies, last term's dance article and dance show celebration was missed out of the summer issue of MECEmatters in error. We have published it here for you to enjoy, please remember that this celebration applies to last year's Year 7, 8 & 9, and 10.

Year 7

Last term, our year 7 pupils embarked on an exploration of Brazilian dance, with emphasis on Capoeira. This style of dance combines martial arts, music and dance with particular movements and 'game' style performances.

This term, year 7 pupils have been exploring Contemporary Dance. This



includes looking at pioneers such as Martha Graham. The pupils explored floor-work and contact-work, before creating a motif themselves, combining their years' worth of dance experience to create one last routine for year 7. Congratulations year 7 on your introduction to dance this year and I look forward to developing on this foundation next year.

Year 8

Last term pupils were introduced to 'Swan Song'; a dance piece that stems around the topic of the UN declaration of human rights and the work of Amnesty International. The pupils create a narrative in their



groups in keeping with the theme of Swan Song whilst developing their knowledge on the style of contemporary and contact work.

This term has been a pivotal term for year 8 - their topic is 'Learning through Literacy', whereby the pupils use

English language and literature to create and develop movements. Using stimuli's such as William Wordsworth's poem 'Daffodils' as well as recipes and the use of adverbs, adjectives, similes and metaphors to initiate movement. The reason this term is very different and important is that there is no modelling from the teacher - all material comes from them! Well done to all those in year 8 on another great year!



Year 9

Last term, year 9s were introduced to the piece 'Sutra', which is studied at A-level dance and therefore suggests the level at which the pupils were being challenged. The styles included in this piece, and embodied during the term, include Kung Fu – a martial art, and Capoeira. The pupils created a duet, therefore expanding their choreographic abilities with less input from others and the teacher.

Similar to the year 8s - this term is all about the year 9 pupils creating their own dance performances. The idea is to create a dance that others can join in with, like a TikTok dance. The pupils are advised on how to develop a piece using actions, space, dynamics and relationships, but everything else, including the choice in music, comes from themselves! It is a fun and adventurous last term, combining all the 3 years' worth of dance experience into one final KS3 routine. I will also take this time to thank year 9s for their dedication and resilience over the past 3 years, and for those not returning for GCSE dance - best of luck for next year! (And for those who are, see you soon!).

Year 10

The year 10s have certainly been busy! Last term the pupils completed a MOCK written exam, as well as a MOCK practical exam for their Performance 1.A component. This component asks the pupils to perform 2 solos, and the first was taught and performed by the pupils. Alongside this, they have been preparing for the MECE Dance Show! Our year 10s have been working hard outside of lessons to learn choreography for the show, and will all take an active part of the audition process.

This term has flown by with the year 10s finalising their first year of Dance GCSE. They have finished exploring the last two professional dance works in their theory classes – 'Shadows' by Phoenix Dance Theatre and 'Within Her Eyes' by James Cousins, a site-specific duet. Also to learn the 2nd solo, part of the NEA Performance 1.A.— of course, all alongside rehearsals for the MECE Show!

Congratulations year 10 on a fabulous year – you have proved to be a dedicated (be it slightly cuckoo!) bunch of pupils and I have had a wonderful time administering your twilight GCSE sessions.



Pippa Gardner
Dance Teacher

DANCE SUMMER 2022 CONTINUED...



MECE Dance Show in the Exhibition

It has FINALLY happened; we have been able to host a Dance Show again! This year it was incorporated into a MECE Exhibition of the arts within the school. It has been two long years of not being able to administer this and I am extremely happy that the pupils were able to be involved in, and enjoy, this experience. A massive well done to all those who helped and/or participated in the show, it was wonderful. We hope to grow the show again next year but until then, the page now flips to preparing for the Christmas show!



“Opportunity, diversity and success for all”

DANCE - AUTUMN 2022

Year 7

This term, 7C and 7D were exploring dance through a scheme of work based around the Marvel Universe. In particular, looking at creating stylistic movements and gestures, and exploring diverse characters, particularly from the Avengers. Alongside learning key subject vocabulary which will be vital to their KS3 dance journey. Their homework this term was to practice the dance in the studio before their assessment - I estimate that 95% of pupils did this - House points to all those who came! We wish them good luck with the performance assessment!



Year 8

A new topic has been introduced into the Year 8 scheme of work, around the theme of war. The aim is to expand upon contemporary dance knowledge and the use of subject specific terminology. We have looked at professional works to understand different ways to use a serious subject, such as war, to choreograph movement. This includes the piece 'Young Men', 'Dust' and 'Shadows'. I am very excited to see the year 8's performance!

Year 9

9A and 9B pupils are looking at different street dance styles in their 'Making a Monster' unit. They choreographed and directed a dance routine as well as designed the costumes and make-up/face paint to accompany their dance. The pupils studied Michael Jackson's Thriller routine for inspiration on characters they can embody during their performance. It is always exciting seeing the final product - house points will be awarded to all those who remember to bring



their costume in for their dance performance. Here is a fabulous shot of some of the

costumes from 9A!



Year 10

My year 10 GCSE Dancers have been putting in a huge amount of effort and have got off to a brilliant start. They are currently completing this Dance GCSE during mainly Twilight sessions - which can be tough; however I am super proud of them! They have already finished their professional work Emancipation of Expressionism by Boy Blue Entertainment They have also co-choreographed and performed in a dance centered around diverse street dance styles including Waacking, Tutting and Krumping. I



look forward to next term when the pupils expand their choreographic knowledge and study contemporary dance.

Year 11

Great start for my terrific tripod of GCSE dancers! They are about to complete their first NEA - two solo dances. Let's wish them luck! As part of their performance module the girls have been learning their Trio performance - which is based around the horrors in Hiroshima. The pupils also have upcoming theory exams after half-term, and therefore should be revising key professional works - they have specific revision guides for the works Emancipation of Expressionism, Artificial Things.

Miss Gardner
Dance Teacher

CAREERS TRIP



I recently took a select group of year 10 and year 11 students to Maiden Erlegh School for a Careers Fair. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to be introduced to the vast possibilities for post -16 education. There were representatives from over 20 different higher and further education providers, including Reading, Bracknell and Henley College. There were also many Universities in attendance who really encouraged students to be thinking about the future and making steps towards that now. I was so pleased with how well our students engaged with this, they all spoke with different representatives and asked insightful questions and participated in discussions about their future. The students were an asset to the school and represented Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge fantastically. I hope that this experience has broadened their horizons and given them a renewed sense of focus for their GCSEs.

Miss Shepherd
History Teacher

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

Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge

PE matters

Issue 9 • July 2022



Click here to read

A MESSAGE FROM MR HUNTER, HEAD OF PE

This term has seen students enjoying athletics, rounders and football in 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.

86 sports fixtures or tournaments attended in 11 different sports with approximately 97 students representing the school across the year. I think this is a great achievement for a small school like ours and something, we, as a community, should all be proud of. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Cheeseman, Mr Buntingham, Mr Waterson, Mr Baker, Miss Jackson, and Miss Shepherd for all leading on fixtures during the year and to Mrs Hooper, Mrs Fearnside and Miss Worth for their support in the admin office and sending out many a parent communication and organising all the paperwork that is needed to attend all the events. Without the support of all these staff these amazing things could not happen so a massive THANK YOU!!!

YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAY



A massive "well done" to 17 of our BTEC Sport students who led a range of fantastic sports activities for year 6s as part of their recent transition day. They planned and led their own sport sessions including rounders, football, rugby, and netball as part of their BTEC Sport course and were given some fantastic feedback from the enthusiastic year 6s. A massive well done to the students listed below and now just to write up your reviews!

Leo T, Jack S, Harry W, Ash P, Ben A, Jess C, Hattie G, Henry W, Dylan B, Corey P and Corey D, Gemma P, Francesca K, Jerry J, Joseph G, Dylan B, P and Corey D.

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

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