

MECEmatters

Issue 16 • December 2022



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

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



This has definitely been a power packed seven weeks. As I write this on Wednesday, 12 December, we are midway through the school production of a Christmas Carol and my stomach is bulging from a very hearty Christmas lunch, which was enjoyed by over 60% of the school population. In addition, the students have been enjoying a week of inter-house football (indoors of course, due to the bone chilling cold and frozen pitches). Most importantly, we have endeavoured to keep the learning up until the last moment and this was exemplified by tutor time yesterday morning when I covered a Year 11 tutor group. The first bell rang and before I had said a word each student got their revision booklets out and by the time the bell rang, they were all silent and engaged in Maths revision tasks. My cover of tutor time allowed Mrs Hussain to go and observe all of Year 8 who were engaged in our tutor reading initiative. This push to ensure we use every minute is really important and hopefully stops students saying, "We just play games in the last week!"

Community is always one of the key values we try to promote and I think at Christmas this is even more important. Therefore, our recent push for foodbank donations and the generous way in which the students and families have given was very pleasing. Similarly, we will be launching our House charity work in

January with a big push on supporting these local good causes. I am looking forward to hearing about the different ways the students will support this project. One of our biggest internal improvements has been the number of leadership and mentorship opportunities available to our students this year. Led by Miss Cheeseman and supported by Mrs Hussain, we have seen students delivering tours, supporting younger readers, mentoring through the house system, and raising money for their school Prom through Christmas card deliveries. All these opportunities teach social skills, resilience and patience and it has been a pleasure to witness these ideas bear fruit. Lastly, and as mentioned before, our school production is a wonderful community event and so many of the students are involved or come and watch and it makes you realise what a special school MECE is.

I am also very grateful for the way you, as parents and members of the MECE community, have supported CESA (our PTA) this term. The quiz night and the raffle and other bits and pieces has seen CESA raise well in excess of £3000 which is brilliant to see and all the money raised will be used for good causes to benefit the students.

CALENDAR

3 JANUARY	RETURN TO SCHOOL (ALL YEARS)
17 JANUARY	DROP EVERYTHING AND READ
20 JANUARY	YEAR 9 WORKSHOP—GETTING READY FOR
24 JANUARY	OPTIONS LAUNCH IN SCHOOL
24 JANUARY	YEAR 9 OPTIONS PARENT EVENING

Our staff community remains strong and it is definitely pleasing from a Headteacher's perspective that we have no teaching or support staff leaving us at the end of this term. We do have two weddings however, and I'd like to wish Ms Swayne in the science department and Ms Kelly, our School Business Manager, the very best of luck in their celebrations over the next few days.

Lastly, I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I hope the holiday season gives all of our MECE families some time to make special memories and family joy.

Take care,

Andy Hartley



YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 7

It's been another great term for Year 7, with lots of exciting things happening in lessons, out of lessons and outside of school.

My first highlight of the term was the Year 7 girl's football team attending their first fixtures. The high level of skill and the teamwork has been amazing to see and I'm looking forward to following the team's journey. Secondly, the brilliant effort of all the students who represented MECE at the Schools Cross Country event – congratulations to Iris, Dulcie, Saanvi and Niamh who came third in the Year 7 girls team event! We also had a great afternoon at Wallingford for the Year 7 boys basketball tournament, with some fantastic shooting from Lucas and Finn.

It is wonderful to see so many Year 7s engaging with extracurricular opportunities, Mr Groves is enjoying running Debate Club and it's always great to see a big turnout at Homework Club!

This term we saw the start of 1 to 1 peer mentoring for a number of Year 7 students. It is a joy to see students across year groups working so well together and supporting one another.

I've enjoyed dropping into lessons, where I see calm, focused, and engaged students. I have especially enjoyed seeing some fantastic cookery skills on display whilst making very tasty looking pasta sauces! Mr Harte and I have been very impressed with engagement in Personal Development lessons, with the students focusing on community and citizenship this term. I am very proud of the year groups overall attitude to learning and work ethic.

It is fabulous to see students thriving outside of school and I thoroughly enjoy receiving updates. A special mention to Grace, Renai and Lilly-Ann for great results in recent gymnastics competitions and Ines in a very successful dance competition. Another huge congratulations to Poppy-Ann for being accepted into the Reading FC Academy.

Next term will see the launch of the Year 7 'Kindness' initiative, whereby the year group will be tasked with spreading kindness across the school!

I hope that Year 7 enjoy a well-deserved Christmas break. I'm already looking forward to seeing what they can achieve in the New Year.

Miss Cheeseman
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8 & 9

Both year groups continue to work hard and make very pleasing progress. I have been doing some analysis of the data following the recent DCP1 and am very pleased to report that the vast majority of students are progressing well and are aware of their areas to improve. One issue that did come out of my analysis is that it is clear that lower attendance impacts learning; please do make every effort to encourage your child to attend school so that they can make the expected progress.

Year 9 completed their first 'straw poll' earlier this month as part of the options process. They carried this out very sensibly and asked relevant questions. More information will follow once this initial process is complete, and students have been urged to speak to their subject teachers if they have any further queries. Please also keep an eye out for communications from school in the New Year regarding the Year 9 options launch on the evening of 24 January, and Year 9 Parents' evening on 7 February.

I continue to be very pleased with how the students are engaging during tutor times and assemblies. This term's assemblies and subsequent tutor activities have focused on Remembrance, Anti-bullying Week, Amnesty International, and the dilemmas and issues surrounding hosting the World Cup in Qatar.

Our Anti-bullying Ambassadors continue to work hard in raising awareness, and the Year 9 students spoke so well in assembly - never easy in front of their peers! They also planned the tutor activity which involved sharing ideas about how to raise awareness of the issues surrounding bullying – some useful discussion arose.

Please could you make sure that Father Christmas tops up any tools for learning ready for January – I hear that glue sticks make an excellent stocking filler! We have also been focusing on perfect uniform – no fluffy white socks or laddered tights please!

Wishing you a very restful and peaceful Christmas break, I look forward to seeing your son/daughter in January.



Ms Biddiss
Head of Year 8 and 9

YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 10 & 11

Year 10 have received their Autumn reports so Parents/ Guardians should now have some information and guidance regarding how students are progressing on their GCSE courses. Homework remains an issue so we would really appreciate your encouragement to complete all assignments on time and to a good standard.

As part of our Careers Programme, Year 10 visited the Apprenticeship Fair at Ascot to explore some of the options for Post-16 and to start planning ahead towards their future goals. It has been lovely to get to know Year 10 and find out more about their aspirations and plans. I am also looking forward to seeing performances from all of our talented KS4 performers in the Christmas production.

Thank you so much to those of you that attended the Year 11 Parents Evening following the results afternoon of the PPE results. The students reacted with a range of emotions during the results afternoon assembly and for some it was a reminder that there is some work to do before the real GCSE's. Hopefully this has helped focus some students and reassure others that they are on track to achieve the grades required for their Post-16 destination.

We received very positive feedback from Henley College for our students engagement and the constructive feedback comments they gave the college after our Taster Day on 10.11.22. We hope the day gave students the opportunity to experience college life and check out courses relevant to their choices. By now, Year 11 students should have applied to the Sixth form/ college and apprenticeship of their choice as many are now receiving conditional offers and interview dates. If any Year 11 students need help with applications, please direct them to their tutor or myself.

Save the date: We're looking at either Thursday, 29 June or Friday, 30 June for the Year 11 Prom. More details will follow but currently Year 11 are working hard organising the details and fund raising to ensure Year 11 get the send-off they deserve after their GCSEs! Parents will be contacted in the new year to assist with providing photos for our leavers events.

It has been a busy term, with lots of illness, coughs and colds and the students have soldiered on. I do hope everyone is recovering and ready to enjoy the Christmas holidays, spend time with loved ones and welcome in 2023 and all it may bring!

Have a very Merry Christmas.

Mrs Ashley
Head of Year 10 & 11

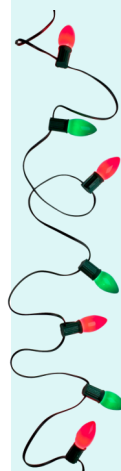
STEM CLUB

This term, students at Stem Club have been thinking about 'Science in Winter'. We have made sparklers, investigated why penguins huddle, built igloos and made Chromatography Christmas cards. Well done to all those who have attended every week!



STAND OUT HOMEWORK

A wonderful poster inspired by our exploration of war poetry in English lessons. Well done Maria in 7A!



ENGLISH



What a cold term this has been! Some of us could be like Scrooge at this point and say 'Bah-Humbug!', but the English department are in the festive spirit and have really enjoyed this term!

As a department, we are still doing loads of things outside of the classroom, Debate Club has been running on a Thursday afternoon with Mr Groves and we have some very keen Year 7s that are always involved and enjoying themselves.

Miss Jackson and Mrs Hussain have been working extremely hard with the Reading Ambassadors and Reading Mentors to promote the love of reading. We have been meeting with the students regularly and they have been given tasks to complete, in order to promote reading – which has been a huge success!



Year 7

This term, Year 7 have been looking at war poetry. This unit fell, rather aptly, during the remembrance month of November. Our students have been working really hard to understand the effectiveness of poetry and propaganda during WW1/WW2. They have studied a range of texts, such as *Who's for the game?*, *My boy Jack* and *The Charge of The Light Brigade*. Our Year 7s have been able to identify when different poems have been used for Propaganda, and who they are aimed at. We have also developed our understanding of the soldier experience of war by looking at diary entries. As a department, we have been incredibly impressed with the prior knowledge of WW1/WW2, but also their maturity when looking at such sensitive pieces of work.

Year 8

Year 8 have been focusing on the theme of power and conflict this

term, in the form of songs. This topic is an opening to their GCSE poetry unit that they will begin studying at the end of year 9. The unit focuses on songs that link to a form of war or conflict, some songs studied have been: *Crown* by Stormzy, *Black* by Dave, *Heroes* by David Bowie, *Ill Manors* by Plan B. Each song has enlightened the students and made them aware of social issues, but also allowed the students to see poetry in a different light. They have all thoroughly enjoyed the songs, especially *Where is the Love?* by The Black Eyed Peas – which linked to their end of term assessment.



We have it on good authority that Stormzy has been made aware of the fact his song has been studied and annotated and that students have been strongly affected by the message. Stormzy is said to be in awe of the fact his song was able to be studied in classes!

Year 9

This term, Year 9 have been looking at Charles Dickens's, *Great Expectations*. They have worked extremely hard on developing their understanding of the text, characters and the effects created by Dickens. They have thoroughly enjoyed the character 'Miss Havisham'. They have been engaging with creative writing, deep analysis and summarising information. This has allowed them to think analytically ahead of starting their GCSE content.



Year 10

Year 10 have been continuing their hard work with *A Christmas Carol*! The year group have been doing

exceptionally well when annotating their copies, focusing on their essay writing and ensuring they are improving their work each time when using the D.I.R.T method (Dedication, Improvement & Reflection Time). As a year group, they have stepped up their game, with their focus on GCSE content. As a department we have been



very impressed with individual students including: Amelia H, Theo R, Dan K and Kerise W. Please ensure you are continuing to work hard over the Christmas break, preparing yourself for more exciting content in January!!

Year 11

Year 11 recently sat their PPEs and received their results ahead of Parents Evening a couple of weeks ago. Although there were mixed emotions from Year 11, we are pleased with the work they have been putting in to each English lesson. We are aware of the targeted areas that need to be revisited and we know students are on board with this and are ready to begin working extremely hard, in and out of lessons. They have continued with *Macbeth* this term, coming to the end of the unit, they have been focusing on their essay writing skills and extending their ideas further with knowledge from the play and their wider context knowledge. Miss Jackson and Mrs Hussain would like to say: Keep up the great work, come back in January ready to focus and get work done! Anyone that has been asked to do homework over the Christmas holidays, it is there to support and develop you further, so ensure you get it done!

The English department would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you all in 2023!!!

Miss Jackson
Head of English

MATHS



Towards the end of last term, as part of Black History month, Year 7s and higher Y9 mathematicians got inspiration from Benjamin Banneker's clock model, applied their maths skills and created some wonderful clocks. We had so many to choose from, but we could only choose the best 5 clocks. Winners will be announced during celebration assembly.



Year 7

This term, we introduced algebra to both higher and foundation students. They have been expanding brackets, substituting values, factorising and solving one step and two step equations. The higher track have added more depth and have even expanded double brackets and factorised quadratics.

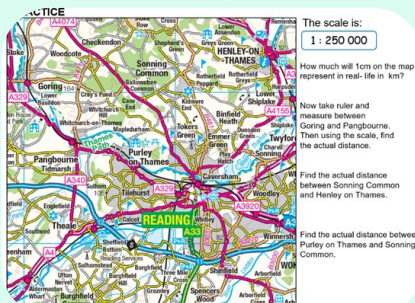
Year 8

Year 8's higher track continued algebra from last term and successfully completed solving simultaneous equations and inequalities. Then they moved onto probability and applied their prior knowledge of fractions and ratios to solve probability problems.

Year 8 foundation groups have been introduced to transformations of shapes, symmetry, rotational symmetry and the most important topic of ratio and proportion. Amongst many new concepts, students learnt how to apply the map ratio on real maps of London, Manchester, Reading and South Oxfordshire and finding actual distances between cities using the map ratio.

Year 9

Higher track have really risen to the challenge of our ambitious curriculum and have been working on grade 7/8 topics like simplifying algebraic fractions and finding the n th term of quadratic sequences, composite functions etc. The rest of Year 9 have been working with algebra, followed by tables and charts and they have used various sampling techniques to collect data.



Year 10

Higher track have consolidated their knowledge of algebra using Pascal triangle to expand brackets, solving simultaneous equations and worked on inequalities, similar and congruent shapes. The rest of Year 10 have revisited transformations and probability and revised topics for the Paper 1 mock exam.

Year 11

Year 11s have been busy this term with their PPEs and now that their results are back, we have started the DIRT tasks on each paper. The focus has been on algebra skills, because knowing how to manipulate algebra will increase the students' confidence and ultimately their grades. We are very pleased to see that a small group of Y11s are attending Wednesday Maths drop-in sessions in order to improve their current PPE grades. We encourage all Year 11s to spend some time revising during the Christmas break using the CGP revision guide and online websites such as Hegarty Maths, Mathsgenie.co.uk and corbettmaths.com.

Mrs Giordan
Head of Maths

MFL



We will tactfully side step the subject of the recent sporting meeting between England and France, except to say, that despite Saturday's result, our students are still embracing the French language and really impressing us in their lessons.

Year 7 have been learning how to talk about their age and birthday, as well as other key dates.

Year 8 have been talking about what they do in their free time, including how to decline an invitation, using a variety of excuses.

Year 9 have been using past tense to describe trips to the cinema.

Year 10 have been working in depth about mobile technology and social media; its risks and advantages. We are also working towards their GCSEs by practising some of the speaking and writing exam skills.

Well done Year 11!!!!

A huge "thank you" to all Year 11 students for your positive and sensible approach to the PPEs, your great attitude made everything run incredibly smoothly!



HUMANITIES



GEOGRAPHY

Year 11 Geography students were absolutely fantastic throughout their day at the Amersham Field Centre, where they completed their second compulsory fieldwork after a very wet visit to Henley in July. This time we were really lucky with the weather and managed to avoid any downpours!

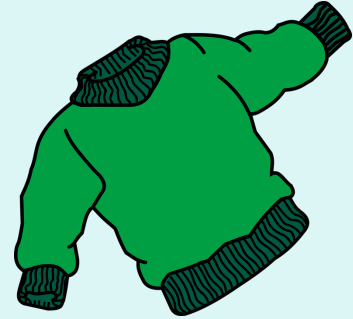
The students started the day thinking about how a river changes downstream from the source to the mouth and agreed upon a hypothesis to investigate. After a struggle getting on some of the wellies, they set off to collect data at two sites along the River Chess. All students had a go at using specialist equipment, such as a hydroprop, and worked efficiently in their groups. A thorough evaluation and discussion of the methods used finished off a very successful day.

Well done Year 11 and thank you to Mr Hartley and Mrs Fearnside for accompanying us on the trip!

Mr Yarwood
Geography



OLD UNIFORM PLEASE!



CESA are always glad to receive pre-loved school uniform, please drop any donations to the school reception.

LOTTERY BLASTING OFF!

CESA are launching a new weekly school lottery with a potential jackpot of £25,000!!

Please sign up via the website:
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk



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CHILTERN EDGE**

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Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



HISTORY

CHAIN MAIL



ABBAY RUINS



REENACTMENT



Earlier this term we took a group of Year 7 historians to Reading Museum for an interactive day studying the Bayeux Tapestry as part of our current topic on the Norman Conquest. The day started with a reenactment of the Norman Conquest where students were able to see the characters come to life through a theatrical retelling of the story. We then had the opportunity to study different sections of the Bayeux Tapestry and even got to try on some chain mail. The afternoon saw us handling artifacts before heading out to the Abbey ruins to learn a little bit more about the history of our town.

The students were a credit to the school and applied themselves brilliantly. They all had a wonderful day and have been able to use what they learned in their study of the Norman Conquest this term!

Miss Shepherd
History

REMEMBRANCE

An important part of our work in Humanities is to provide students with opportunities for reflection.

This year's Remembrance assembly explored our understanding of service and the motivation behind people who choose to serve over and over again in their communities and for their country. We focused on Al Moore who throughout his lifetime has served as a police officer, a combat medical technician in the Army Reserves and a paramedic. This took him to many countries in the world including Somalia, Germany and Bosnia where he volunteered as a Police Liaison Officer for the United Nations. We also remembered those who made the ultimate sacrifice of life while serving including Cyrus Thatcher, a former student at MECE. Thank you to all students for being so attentive and Mr Watterson's art class for creating the lovely display of poppies.

NEW SPANISH CLUB



There are 21 countries in the world with Spanish as their official language and there are around 500 million people in the world who speak Spanish as their first language. It is a global language.

Are you interested in learning a new language and finding out about the history, geography and culture of the Spanish Speaking World?

Spanish Club starts Friday, 5 January in HUMS1.



SCIENCE



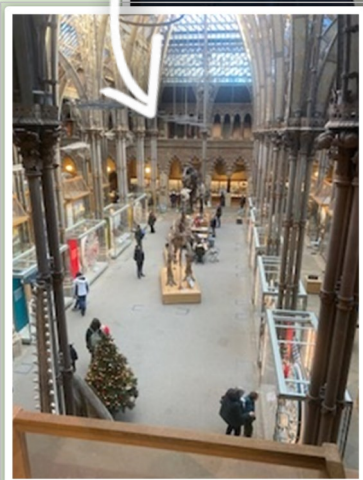
@mecescience

SCIENCE FUN

YEAR 8



YEAR 9



Hello!

We have had a great term in the science department. Optional homeworks have seen great take up from students, we have been awarded over £2,000 in grants, taken students on several trips and the STEM Club is flourishing under the leadership of Miss Swayne.

YEAR 7 & 8

Year 7 and 8 have both studied hard for the last term and we are very proud of their progress. They recently took part in a science show as a whole year group, which, judging from the squeals and "oohs", they were all delighted with.

YEAR 9

Year 9 are continuing their GCSE studies with real gusto. They have all launched into a microscopy module and are learning the skills of the microworld brilliantly. Year 9 also recently went to the Oxford Christmas lectures based at the Natural History Museum. The chosen 14 students who have all showed excellent progress in set 1, 2 and 3 all enjoyed the trip immensely.

We are continuing to innovate in science and try new programmes. We are constantly adapting our lessons and work to fit the individual needs of our students. In a recent survey of the student body in Year 9 – 100% of the students stated that they are pleased or extremely pleased with their science lessons. 100% of our student body also stated that they understood lessons and felt supported by their science teacher. This is great news for us and tells us we are doing something right!

Year 11 are making great strides of progress, we are now halfway through the course – on track to complete in time and look forward to supporting Year 11 to achieve excellent science GCSE results. We are also very proud of the number of students who are hoping to pursue at least one science A level, T level, advanced BTEC or science related apprenticeship. These chosen FE courses are not easy, but we know our students have the tenacity and resilience to get through them with aplomb.

Ms Hardman
Head of Science

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 support your child further.



SEASONAL EXPERIMENTS

We have some exciting Christmas themed lessons coming up and hope to post some pictures on our twitter feed @MECEScience



ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

@MECEADTI

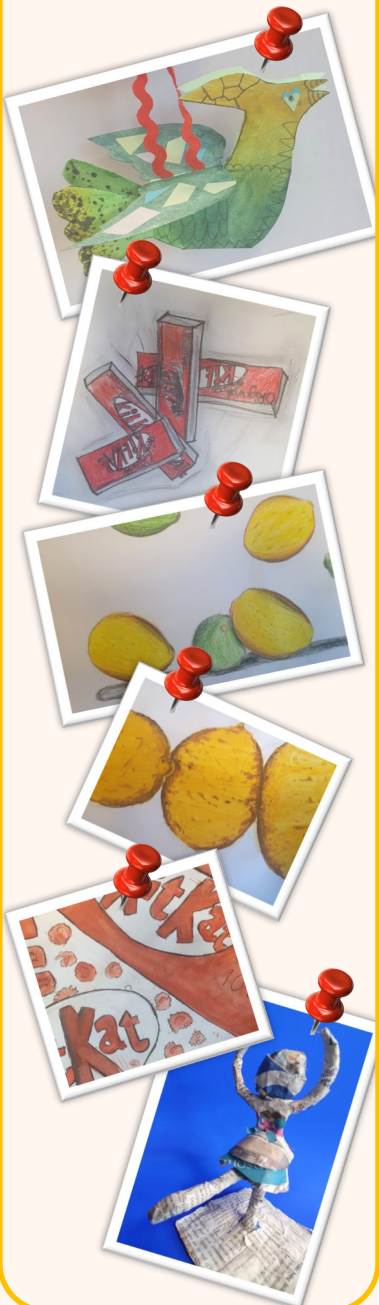
It's been another busy term in A.D.T. with our young chefs cooking up some amazing dishes; designers realising their designs in final and artists creating their final outcomes. I hope you all have a great winter break and make sure you, keep creating, making and baking.

Mr Watterson

Head of Art, Design and Technology

ART

Lots of exciting things have been happening in Art, but as a visual subject I think we should let the pictures tell the story of another great term in the Art Studio.

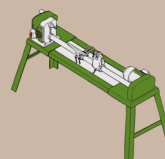
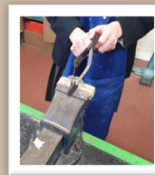
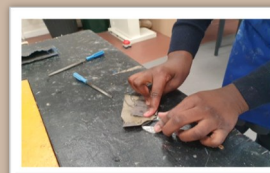
**FOOD**

As always, the MECE kitchen has been a productive, creative hub with many KS3 students developing their skills including: Year 7 looking at Pasta dishes; Year 8 creating dishes for the Great British Menu challenge and Year 9 looking at food miles and making many delicious delights.

KS4 chefs have been building on their theory and practical skills making a range of dishes including; making choux pastry; pasta dishes; quiche and food styling in Year 10. While Year 11 have been experimenting with food science and planning a celebration dish just in time for Christmas.

**DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

Design & Technology has been a hive of activity with the return of practical lessons, with students realising their designs with: Year 7 creating their picture holder; Year 8 finishing their pewter pieces and Year 9 creating their reversible clocks. Year 10 & 11 have been solving a range of design problems, putting their theory work into practice.



@mechilternedgedt

PERFORMING ARTS

@MECE_PA

This is always the busiest term for us in the Performing Arts Department as we prepare for the school show. Whilst we have been rehearsing several hours a week, lessons have been also running at a pace!

DRAMA**Year 7**

This term, Year 7 students have been experimenting with different styles of mime as they start to discover how to communicate with non-verbal skills to an audience. Our guiding words to help us improve and focus our mime skills have been visualise, accuracy and consistency. In addition to this, we have been working on our understanding of key terminology relating to the world of theatre and drama.

Year 8

Students have travelled back in time 2500 years to study the origins of modern theatre. Students have been learning about the impressive structures the Greeks built for their theatre performances and how the actors performed in these enormous amphitheatres. Students have also engaged with the tragic myths of Oedipus Rex and Theseus and the Minotaur.

Year 9

Students have really impressed me recently with their assessment performances of the really challenging performance style of Commedia dell'arte. After an initially slow start for many, lots of students have really found their stride in this comedic Italian performance style. Students have learnt about this 500-year-old performance style full of strange

characters like Pantelone and Harlequin while trying to speak in the gibberish language of grammelot.

Year 10

Students have been devising performances based on ideas and research relating to the Salem Witch Trials in 1692. The work we have been doing this term emulates their assessed unit that they will be working on towards the end of the school year. The practice being engaged with now will give a strong foundation for when they come to the assessed unit later which is worth an important 30% of their final grade.

Year 11

We have been exploring the very strange play called *Metamorphosis*. Based on the famous work by Franz Kafka with the same name, students will perform two extracts from Stephen Berkoff's adaptation to an examiner who will visit the school towards the end of February/early March. This play presents a challenge to the students as they apply Berkoff's physically demanding and cerebrally challenging performance style known as Total Theatre.

Tom Harte
Head of Performing Arts

MUSIC**Year 7**

Students have been continuing with their work on chords using a variety of instruments. They have been rehearsing and performing a variety of popular pieces and have been developing their singing skills using some of these songs. As a whole class, they are now able to perform providing the melody with their voices whilst accompanying themselves on keyboards, ukuleles, and guitars.

Year 8

Students have continued to develop their musical skills by learning riffs (repeated short ideas) and bass lines, from both popular and classical pieces. They have learnt music by Pachelbel, Ed Sheeran and Adele. Their learning has included further embedding their use and understanding of musical notation. They have been able to use keyboards, ukuleles and guitars for these pieces.

Year 9

Students have been able to choose from a wider range of pieces and have been working in groups to perform as part of an ensemble. Keyboards, ukuleles, drums and electric, acoustic and bass guitars have all been used, alongside a little bit of singing! In addition to the development of their instrumental skills, the students have made progress with their listening skills, and the ability to collaborate and compromise.



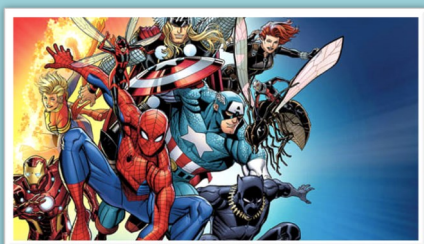
Becki Brown
Music Teacher



DANCE

Year 7

This term we rotated groups in PE, which means I had the pleasure of teaching 7A and 7B! They also explored the new scheme of work based around the Marvel Universe. The Year 7s this term are looking at creating stylistic movements and gestures and exploring diverse characters, particularly from the Avengers. This is alongside learning key subject vocabulary which will be vital to their KS3 dance journey.



Year 8

We are currently exploring the topic War. The aim of this unit 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 pieces 'Young Men', 'Dust' and



'Shadows'. I am very excited to see the Year 8s performance!

Year 9

It is now time for 9C pupils to explore the '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 study Michael Jackson's Thriller routine for inspiration on characters they can

embody during their performance. It is always exciting seeing the final product, and house points will be awarded to all



those who remember to bring their costume in for their dance performance!!

Year 10

Students have been delving into the basics of GCSE Choreography, this includes looking at stimuli, intents, structures and devices. They explored a choreographic assessment and will get feedback from this after half-term. In their theory sessions, we have been exploring the inclusive work 'Artificial Things', exploring contemporary style of dance and improvisation tasks. Lastly, well done to the year 10s for the gorgeous performance in the Christmas Carol production!

Year 11

Year 11 have just finished their trios for their performance module. Their assessment is on December 13th - wish them luck!!! They will also be performing three quarters of this dance in the Christmas Carol production. Year 11s have also been continuing to choreograph a dance for their choreography component. Pupils should now be at the point of creating



movement relating to their dance ideas.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

The results for 2022's Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge have arrived. All students in Years 7 to 9, plus GCSE Computer Scientists, were given certificates to take home before the end of term, so hopefully parents have seen these. There were numerous excellent scores, and lots of house points were awarded.

Three students in particular performed brilliantly and were awarded 'Best in School' for their particular age group. These were Dylan C in Year 7, Zoe T in Year 9 and Joseph G in Year 11, who all won a Golden Ticket and a hot chocolate with the Head.



I have put thousands of students through Bebras over the last 10 years and these were some of the very highest scores I have ever seen, testament to some of the outstanding students we have here at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge.

Mr Redrup
Head of Computer Science



MECE HOUSES—STUDENT VOICES



Chiltern house is amazing, and this year I have taken up the role of House Mentor helping our new year 7s settle at MECE. This term I have got house points for things including doing well in lessons and being in the school show. In PSHE I researched our house charity and I'm proud we chose Reading Family Aid. As a school we have collected a massive selection of toys for their Christmas toy appeal.

Eleanor C. Year 9

WHY THE CHARITY IS NEEDED

In 2021, 24.5% of Reading's children were living in poverty



I'm so happy I'm in Abbey House because we're a great community that strive to make the school a better place. Our house charity is FISH which support vulnerable people in the community. I enjoy getting house points and have collected them for classwork, homework and I was chosen as a school guide for open morning, which was great to showing off our school.

Kieran H. Year 9



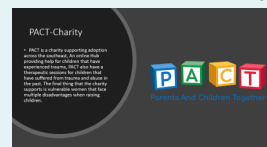
Being in Thames House is always fun and interesting. I like the house system it really brings the students at MECE together. I collect a lot of house points for taking part in clubs and working hard in lessons. Our house charity is Home Start which was set up in 1973 to offer support, friendship and give practical help to parents with young children. We hope to raise some money for our charity next year and we look forward to sharing our fundraising ideas with you.

Lianna B. Year 9



The best thing about being in Peppard House is all of the different competitions and opportunities to earn house points, rewards, so far this year I have got House points for many things including donating food, achieving in lessons and attending clubs. In PSHE we have been creating presentations about our charity PACT, who help families in Reading with adoption.

Thomas D. Year 8



FOODBANK COLLECTION



This year, our students have been collecting food donations for the Weller Centre with each item collected being rewarded with a House point. On Monday, Abbey Head of House, Miss Shepard and On Call Supervisor, Mr Baker, delivered the items to the amazing team at the Weller Centre. Thank you to all the Students and families who donated.



FOODBANK COLLECTION

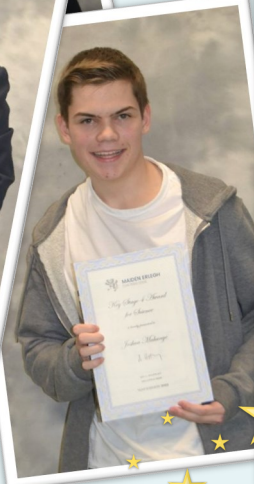


During the last week of term it was inter-house football for all year groups within their PE lessons. Unfortunately, due to the frozen weather, this had to be moved indoors to the sports hall and played as a 6-side tournament. The students on the whole were excellent, worked well in their house teams and cheered on each other during the games. Due to the weather, years 7, 8 and 9 have been postponed until after Christmas. For years 10 and 11 we were able to do a combined girls and boys team for each house which meant we could get through all the games, with the overall winners being Peppard House for year 11 and Thames House for Year 10!



PRESENTATION EVENING

It was a delight to welcome back the class of 2022 and to have Jon Peck, CEO of Maiden Erlegh Trust, with us to speak about 'Character and Resilience' at our annual Presentation Evening this year. Jon was able to give out very well deserved awards to many of our dedicated students, past and present. We were also fortunate to hear several students give accounts of work or trips they have been involved in and listen to a performance from the upcoming school production. It was a really lovely celebration of the hard work and commitment shown by students and staff at MECE and we are already looking forward to next year's ceremony!



PRESENTATION EVENING PRIZE WINNERS

Art, Design and Technology

KS3 Winner

Amelia P

Design & Technology Excellence

Daisy U

Chef of the Year

Amelia H

Computer Science

Computer Science Excellence

Alejandro DG

English

KS3 Winner

Jaimie F

KS4 Winner

Juan O

English Excellence

Immy H

Humanities

KS3 Winner

Theo R

KS4 Winner

Aish K-H & Mia P

Mathematics

KS3 Winner

Daisy M

KS4 Winner

Louis S

Mathematics Excellence

Ben W

Modern Foreign Languages

KS3 Winner

Chloe G

KS4 Winner

Wilfred L-S

MFL Excellence

Morgan E

PE and Vocational

KS3 Winner

Emmanuel N

KS4 Winner

J'Nikea S-H

Sportsperson of the Year

Amelia B & Isaac W

Vocational Award

Grace B

Performing Arts

KS3 Winner

Gabrielle P

KS4 Winner

Alfie C

Performing Arts Excellence

Mia L

Musical Productions Award

Jess C

Science

KS3 Winner

Erin C

KS4 Winner

Callum F & Joshua M

Science Excellence

Zoe T

Special Awards

Academic Progress Award

Presented to: Morgan E

Achievement Prize

Presented to: Akshaye D & Natasha P

CEO Cup for Special Endeavour

Presented to: Erin M

Community Award, sponsored by CESA

Presented to: Amelia H

Contribution to the School Council

Presented to: Imogen C & Samuel S

Service to the School

Presented to: Akshaye D & Harriot B

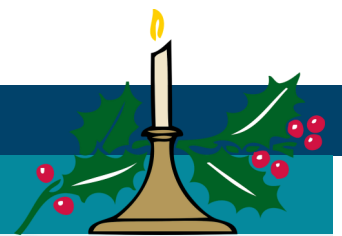
Worker Bee Award

Presented to: Sophia J

House Cup

Thomas B & Felicity R





A CHRISTMAS CAROL



ANOTHER CHRISTMAS CRACKER FROM PERFORMING ARTS

The extended Performing Arts family kicked off the MECE Christmas season with a spooktacular musical performance of "A Christmas Carol". The musicians, dancers, actors and backstage crew gave flawless performances amid an atmospheric set. And we even had a special guest in the audience, in the form of Miss Fay! Here are some photos for you to enjoy and reminisce.



"Opportunity, diversity and success for all"

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)

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.

88 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 Hopes, 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!!

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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, Harry W, Dylan B, Corey P and Corey D.

For more information please visit: www.maiden-erlegh-chiltern-edge.co.uk Twitter: @MaidenErlegh

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Wishing our MECE
family a very merry
Christmas

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