MECEmatters

Issue 17 • March 2023



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I always look through MECEmatters with a great sense of pride. Staff at our wonderful school work hard; they strive each day to ensure the students get the best deal and can work in calm productive classrooms, participate in new experiences, broaden their cultural horizons and leave the school as better qualified young citizens. Of course, things do not always go smoothly and often we are battling many variables from student poverty and social pressures, adolescent hormones, a stretched school budget and staff fatigue. However, we do our best to overcome and reflect when things don't go so well and we always endeavour to do even better next time.

The results of the parent, student and staff surveys came out this week and it was so pleasing to see the outcomes of these surveys and I made sure that my leadership and wider team can reflect on some very positive feedback as is shown below.

"If there is a problem, individual teachers will make contact by phone to discuss the issue so that we can work together as parents and teachers to support my child. There has also been evidence recently that certain teachers are keeping an eye on my child for potential issues arising which felt very positive to both my child and myself".

"I think the school works very hard to involve parents. I value the opportunity to

take part in forums, the events at school (astronomy evening/plays etc) and the opportunity to meet the staff at parents evening".



"Thank you! Both my children are very different, both are very happy at MECE and all staff have been amazing at offering support and opportunities in a way that suits them as individuals".

"You are brilliant! Thank you for continually educating, inspiring, caring and giving your all. You are changing lives on a daily basis and should be so proud on what you do".

Conversely, my leadership team and I spent over an hour on Wednesday evening processing what our action points are from this feedback. The main things we took from the student and parent surveys were improved reports, more consistency in the application of the behaviour policy from staff, more consistent application of the marking policy and ensuring the curriculum is well matched to our students. We will be weaving these points into our School Improvement Plan for next year with some areas actioned even earlier.

I would like to use this opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to two valued members of staff. Mrs Jiang will be leaving us at the end of term and will be moving

CALENDAR

11-13 April	Year 11 Easter School
17 April	First Day of Term
1 May	Bank Holiday
3 May	Year 8 Parents' Evening
4 May	Drop Everything &Read
8 May	Bank Holiday
8-12 May	Year 10 PPE

on to a job in local accountancy firm. We wish her all the very best in her new role and thank her for her work in the last two terms. Mrs Jiang will be replaced by Ms Howes. With the return of Ms Chopra from maternity leave we say goodbye to Mrs Giordan. We were so lucky to be able to cover Ms Chopra's leave period with a specialist and experienced maths teacher and Ms Giordan worked incredibly hard despite a period of ill health to keep the department moving forward. We wish her all the very best for her new adventures beyond MECE.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing all the students return on Monday 17 April 17 at 8.40am.

Andy Hartley

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

YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 7

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

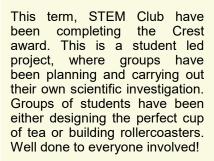
A few of my highlights this term are as follows: the amazing teamwork and fantastic performances at the Interhouse Indoor Athletics event, well done Chiltern! The great work at the South Oxfordshire Sports Hall Athletics. Beautiful photographs that the students submitted for the 'Ordinary People, Ordinary Objects and Extraordinary Journeys...' house competition you can view the finalists here. Witnessing such amazing talent at the dance rehearsals. The feedback I have received regarding my amazing Year 7 tour guides, who have supported at Open Mornings and prospective staff tours. The continued engagement with our extra-curricular programme. And finally, the Year 7 netball and football teams, who continue to represent the school impeccably at fixtures.

With plenty more opportunities to get involved in after the Easter break, I look forward to seeing what the year group achieve over the next half term.

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

Miss Cheeseman Head of Year 7

STEM CLUB









YEAR 8&9

Both Year 8 and 9 continue to work hard and make pleasing progress. Whenever I can, I visit lessons and observe students working (and thinking!) hard, and I am impressed to see calm, purposeful study. A special shoutout to 9/3 science who have made real improvements in their attitude and behaviour - always a pleasure to see them working hard with Miss Swayne. I also aim to visit each tutor group every day and I am pleased to report that most students are in perfect uniform with a full set of Tools for Learning, making for a calm start to each day. There are some fantastic tutor activities happening, and tutor reading twice a week highlights our whole school aim to continue to promote reading.

Year 9 have taken their options and we are in the process of allocating their choices. Huge thanks to Miss Bliss for ensuring that everything has run smoothly, and credit to the year group who have gone through the process with maturity. There is so much to forward and exciting to, opportunities to study some subjects in greater depth - however there remains an expectation that if your child has chosen not to study a subject at GCSE in Y10, they must remain committed to their learning of that subject until the end of year 9.

Year 8 are working hard and are showing an increased commitment to learning – we continue to promote and implement the SLANT message which helps to ensure quiet and purposeful learning in lessons. Sporting achievements have also been impressive and I hope to get out more to see the teams in action!

I continue to meet the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors once a term and they have got some lovely ideas going forward. We continue to promote the anti-bullying message at MECE; in the summer term I hope to recruit

Sit up

straight.

questions.

Note key information.
Track the speaker.

isten to the speaker. Ask and answer

and train another group of current Y7 and 8 students for September 2023.

Best wishes for a restful Easter Break

Ms Biddiss Head of Year 8 and 9

YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 10 & 11



Year 10

Year 10 have been focusing on the world of work supported by a programme of assemblies, presentations and using Unifrog. Part of their PMSC has involved learning essential skills in building CVs and thinking about future plans. All have been tasked with finding a work placement. Later in the terms, colleges and sixth forms will be in to present to the students to provide more information about the courses and options available to them and to start thinking about Post-16 choices, ahead of the Open Days and Events in Year 11.

Year 11

Year 11 Core PPEs have been completed with most students showing improvements in their grades, due, in no small part, to their application and attendance of revision sessions.

NEAs are now completed for Food & Nutrition and Drama so well done to students completing these subjects.

I have been immensely proud of Year 11 and their fund-raising efforts for Prom and Leavers events. This has been the best fund-raising effort so far during my time as Head of Year and they have raised over £250 through card deliveries and car washes with more to come in from a football match and Prom wear sale. Not bad for a Year Group of 48 students! Their focus has been altruistic, wanting to make Prom accessible and affordable for all students. I am looking forward to the Prom on 30 June to celebrate all their achievements and hard work.

Coming up we have Easter School to support revision to support students in their GCSEs. All Year 11 students are welcome to attend and details can be found on the school website here.

Students have been applying to colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeships and have been very successful in their Post-16 interviews. Now the count down to the exams begins in earnest!

Mrs Ashley Head of Year 10 & 11



YEAR 10 & 11 ENGLISH

Year 10

Students have been challenged by studying past GCSE language papers They have considered a range of texts, developing their analytical skills through annotations, discussions, and completing formal written work. The students have been enabled to identify structural and language devices and write about them coherently, while at the same time providing a personal response to the task. All of the classes have risen to the difficult challenge of answering examination style papers and have shown improved results. Keep up the extra effort.

Year 11

Our Year 11s have been working incredibly hard with revision for their upcoming GCSE examinations. The effort that they have put in and the challenges they have risen to must be commended. The students have attended after school revision sessions, lunchtime revision sessions, and of course are working hard during their timetabled lessons. Students have recalled prior learning and utilised the revision booklets that the department have found/bought/created.

We have all been truly impressed with the students dedication to the revision sessions that we have put on and we look forward to seeing them at Easter School. Keep putting in the work and effort!

SHAKESPEARE ASSEMBLY

Mr Groves put on a brilliant assembly getting Years 7 & 8 inspired about Shakespeare. We think he rather enjoyed performing!

"We know what we are, but not what we may be." W. Shakespeare



ENGLISH

@meceenglish

singing.

A warm Easter welcome from all in the MECE English Department. We have been very busy bunnies in English hopping about with all kinds of learning, development and extracurricular activities taking place. The past two half terms have been excellent to say the least. We have had students work published in the latest Young Writers anthology. We have had a most magical Macbeth theatre production come to school delivered by Katch 22 for our Year 9, 10 and 11s. Most recently, we have celebrated world book day and Shakespeare Week, with a melancholily dressed staff member as Miss Havisham for the former and a joyous, raucous and at times insulting, student assembly for the latter.

Our department's clubs have continued to be spaces for literacy and oracy and development of English amongst our student body. Debate Club has continued to progress and has seen participation of up to 19 students a week. I must congratulate and mention some key members of the club: Iris J, Riaan B, Daisy S, Harriet J, Kwame P, Areta P, Ellie N, Ruby P, Rose W, Kristy, Stephanie C. Callum L and Isla. H for their continued attendance, support of one another, development in oracy and maturity in tackling some of the key questions difficulties and surround our world today. A special mention to Annie C who has developed a keen debating style and has transferred skills from the club and into her English lessons. Moreover, our two newest members, Maisie R and Jasmine H -M, have had a great start and supported one another, as all members do, in the true spirit of MECE. Alongside this, one of our newer clubs, Literature Film Society, has started strong providing a space to study and enjoy works of great literature through the medium of film.

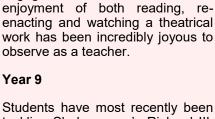
Reading has been promoted and championed here in the MECE English department. D.E.A.R has been a core success across the school with students participating with staff and developing their enjoyment of reading. Book Talk from our excellent resident book

ambassadors has been an excellent way to display what a love for reading can achieve and how development of reading ability aids in learning and growth. We will continue to promote reading across the school as a department.



Year 7

Our Year 7s have enthusiastically been studying non-fiction texts this term, as well as practising different styles of writing. Students have looked at a variety of writing styles from Anne Frank's diary to posters advertisements, and leaflets. Students have also studied documentaries focusing on issues such as recycling and climate change and used these as inspiration to write letters to their local MPs and even the Prime Minister! The work completed by Year 7s has continued to reflect their hard work and commitment to doing their very best. Keep up the excellent work Year 7.



engagement with the musical and

and

dancing

Students have most recently been tackling Shakespeare's Richard III. The themes link closely with what the students will be studying when they come to GCSEs to study Macbeth. The students have understood the characterisation of the Duke of Gloucester with apt appreciation and dissatisfaction at his manipulative and cruel yet cunning ways. They have analysed characters and their development, conducted whole class reading of the play and written analytical essavs to understand and evaluate the language used within the play.



Mr Groves English Teacher



Year 8

Year 8 have been studying the wonderfully layered, nature vs nurture, Blood Brothers musical. The musical is a personal favourite of the department to teach due to its raw portrayal of social class, nature vs nurture, Liverpudlian representation of dialect and connections to the superstitious. The challenges of engaging with a musical that tackles such pertinent themes cannot be overstated and the Year 8s have risen to the challenge and have come out



MATHS

As the countdown towards the GCSEs has begun, this term has seen the Year 11s busy completing the last remaining topics such as cubic and reciprocal graphs, vectors and functions, practising past papers and revising topics from previous years. Recently, they also had their second round of PPEs, and some can now finally see improvement in their grades. We encourage all the Year 11s to do their best to make good use of the time between now and the exams to revise as much as they can and practise papers. We take this opportunity to wish all the very best of luck to our Year 11s as they approach the final hurdle in their MECE journey!

In the meantime, the Year 8s, 9s and Year 10s have been deepening

their knowledge of Pythagoras' theorem and trigonometry. The theorem is one of the most important facts that students learn on right-angle triangles and is revisited every year as it



becomes more complex and is applied in several real-life examples.

Year 10 higher students have also been studying new statistical graphs and angles in circles, whereas foundation students also covered statistical content including stem-and-leaf and two-way tables.

Year 9 higher students have studied more complex topics, such as surds, and have also studied percentages and were introduced to bank accounts, debit and credit cards and how to calculate tax. Similarly, foundation students also studied percentages and were able to work real-life problems related to bank accounts and other problems involving percentages.

Year 7s have this term been introduced to algebra. They learnt the basic skills such as solving, expanding and simplifying which will be used every year as the topic gets more complicated.



The World's Largest Online Maths Competition.

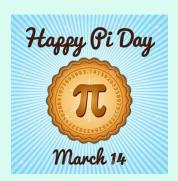
On Wednesday 8 March all Year 7 students and some Year 8 and Year 9 students took part in the World Maths Day online competition, run by 3P Learning. This is an annual competition played over 24 hours during which students from all over the world compete against one another playing 1-minute mental maths games.

We were so impressed with the enthusiasm of our students who managed to answer a grand total of 82, 910 questions in 24 hours!!

A big well done goes to our top 5 scorers who were awarded a certificate of participation and received a small treat from us. These were:

- 1. Ethan H 2618 points
- 2. Alfie D 2004 points
- 3. Misa D 1950 points
- 4. Ava G 1921 points
- 5. Areta P1832 points

Well done to everyone!



On March 14, for the first time in the Maths department, we celebrated Pi Day. Form 10A won the form competition where students had to guess 20 dingbats related to and in lessons, students in Year 8 and Year 7 were introduced to and the area and circumference of a circle.

Mrs Giordan Head of Maths

DOUGHNUT SALE



Well done to Year 11 and thank you to CESA for putting on a Prom fundraising Krispy Kreme doughnut sale at school! The delicious doughnuts went down a treat on the last day of term with students and staff alike.



Year 11 turned out in force to sell the doughnuts out and about during break and lunchtime

SPRING RAFFLE

This year's Spring Raffle raised a healthy £561!!! All proceeds come back to school to enrich education of our students. A special thank you to Bridges Estate Agents and Heights generously Tai Chi for donating wonderful prizes for us.





HUMANITIES

GEOGRAPHY

Once again Year 7 responded landscape the model challenge with enthusiasm! The project provided opportunities for many fascinating discussions in class about the diversity of landscapes within the UK and across the world. It also enabled students to explore how landscapes change over time. A total of points house awarded across Year 7 for this project and well done to Peppard for being the overall winners!











It was a pleasure to take 30 students to visit London and the Houses of Parliament this term. They had a fascinating tour, which included sitting in the public galleries of the House of Commons and House of Lords. This was followed by a meeting with John Howell MP, where the students gave him a grilling on a wide range of topics. Their questions included:

- How is the government responding to sewage levels in the Thames?
- What are the benefits of HS2?
- What are the desired outcomes of a compulsory maths education until 18?
- What has been the most difficult decision you have made as an MP?
- Why and how did you become an MP?
- Can you go out for a drink and socialise with MPs from a different party?

It was a super day and thank you to all students for their conduct and positive engagement throughout the trip. Many thanks to Mrs Ely and Mrs Fearnside for accompanying the students on the trip and making it such a successful one.

Mr Yarwood Head of Humanities



HISTORY

In history we have been celebrating International Women's Day in a range of different ways. In Year 8 we have been studying Hallie Rubenhold's Book 'The Five' which explores the lives of the five women who were killed by Jack the Ripper. By focusing on the stories of the women, the students have been able to develop a wider understanding of them as people rather than simply seeing them as victims.

In History Club we had a fantastic presentation from Immy who shared about her grandmother, the first female to study Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial College London! Not only was this a fascinating presentation, it was also lovely to learn about someone a little closer to home.



Miss Shepherd History

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

In our next edition of MECEmatters I will be revealing the winners of our annual photography competition linked to the theme — Ordinary People, Ordinary Objects and Extraordinary Journeys (HMD-2023). Thank you once again for all the stunning entries.

There will also be a report on the Year 7 trip to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir - a Hindu temple in Neasden, London and described as being Britain's first authentic Hindu temple.

Have a lovely Easter break and thank you for all your support.



Mr Yarwood Head of Humanities

ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



Technology and with our young artists developing their skills looking at a range of different artists and techniques. I hope you all have a great Easter break and make sure you, keep creating, making and baking**.**

Mr Watterson

ART

Year have been discovering the work of Peter Randall-Page, they have explored pattern making and have begun to use clay to create their own version of Randall-Pages boulders in 3D. Year 8 have been looking at nature and creating ceramic responses, Year 9 are looking at work of KAWS and using his style to create their own work.boulders in 3D. Year 8 have been looking at nature and ceramic creating responses, Year 9 are looking at work of KAWS and using his style to create their own work.

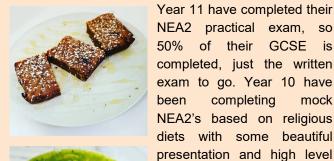


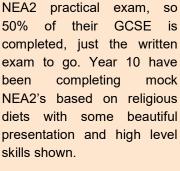




FOOD

In Key Stage 3, we've said goodbye to the first rotation of Food students and welcomed the new students for the rest of the school year. Standards have been really high with some fantastic work produced. Here is a selection of their work. Year 8 Pizza, Year 9 pancakes looking at food miles, pastries with Year 9 looking at different types of pastry.











DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

has been full of designing this half term. Year 7 have begun to cut the wood and draw the image to be laser engraved later in the term for their picture holder. Year 8 have been looking at pewter, learning about the material and using this to inform their designs. Year 9 have also been designing, their project is the creation of a clock, drawing on computer software and then using the laser cutter to make them out of acrylic. Year 10 have been looking at all things mechanical and material based, comparing metals and woods and their properties.







@mechilternedgedt

PERFORMING ARTS



@MECE_PA

DRAMA

Year 7

We have been looking at the Bard this term. Students have heen discovering why Shakespeare's plays are still so popular after several centuries. As part of their learning this term, we have studied the plots of Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, and The Tempest as we have tackled some of the key scenes while using Shakespearean language.

Year 8

Students have been developing their skills and of understanding the performance style of Physical Theatre. In this unit, students learn to communicate their performances through movement and considered use of their bodies. The builds on their learning of mime skills from last year while also adding in some vocal work as we try to express meaning on multiple levels.

Year 9

Year 9 have been working as an ensemble in large groups on a climatic scene from Willy Russel's Blood Brothers. As they work on the one scene over several lessons, we are drawing on how to develop mood and atmosphere on stage while understanding that there are no small parts, just small actors: every role is as important as the lead role.

Year 10

Year 10 have recently begun their first assessed

performance of the GCSE course. Over the next couple of months, Year 10 drama students will create, develop and research a performance that will be sent off to the examiners. As part of the development of this performance, they will also need to write a hefty account of how they are creating and applying their ideas. Good luck!

Year 11

Year 11 have had a busy term as they performed their final performance of the GCSE course. For this. an examiner from OCR came in for the day to watch and mark the performances. There were lots of nerves, some tatty scripts and a couple of pep talks on the day! After the final performance. the examiner encouraged the students to feel proud of their work and said he enjoyed his day with us. The next day we enjoyed a visit to Oxford to see a play that the students will write about in their written exam in May.

Tom Harte Head of Performing Arts



MUSIC



Monday lunchtimes in the music department have been very enjoyable with a new group starting this term. Our ukulele and singing group have been fantastic and had their first performance at the Performing Arts Event this week.

Year 7

This term, Year 7 have been working on developing their composing and performing skills through their study of programme music. This is music which tells a story, for example, Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev. Students worked on composing a short musical idea to represent a character, which will link into their study of film music later in KS3. They then learnt the melody from Hall of the Mountain King by Grieg. Year 7 are now continuing their development of performing and composing, focusing on rhythmic pieces, learning about notation in music, and being able to maintain an individual part in a group piece.

Year 8

Students have learnt about links between drumming music from different parts of Africa and their links to the layers of some minimalist music. They learnt how to play either Tubular Bells by Mike Oldfield or the theme from "The Truman Show", both of which use different layers to develop their music. They are now working on developing their improvisation skills by adding their own melodies to the 12 bar blues chord sequence.

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



MECE HOUSES—STUDENT VOICES

SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS



On Wednesday 1 March, we held our annual Sports Hall Athletics Inter-House competition for year 7s. All students signed up to represent their houses in the track and field events with all Year 7 students encouraged to compete in at least one event. This was a hugely successful, all be it loud, event and a massive thank you to Jon Allen, School Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire, who came into run the competition for us. Also a massive thank you to our fantastic sports leaders in Years 8 and 9 who successfully ran and officiated and did the scoring throughout the day: Freddie P, Charlie G, James H, Imogen C, Jorgia P, Charlotte G, Honey H, Ollie S, Adam P, Ella P, Matthew B, Eric Z, Georgina I and Kieran H.

Well done to the Winning House – Chiltern!



INTER-HOUSE FOOTBALL

We finally managed to complete the inter-house football competition that was started before Christmas. Due to frozen pitches before Christmas this competition was moved indoors to the sports hall and played as a 6 aside indoor football tournament. The students were excellent, worked well in their house teams and cheered on each other during the games. The results for each year group were as follows:

Year 7 Girls:1st Peppard, 2nd Thames, 3rd Chiltern and 4th Abbey

Year 7 Boys:1st Thames, 2nd Peppard, 3rd Chiltern and 4th Abbey

Year 8 Girls: 1st Chiltern, 2nd Abbey, 3rd Peppard and 4th Thames

Year 8 Boys: 1st Abbey, 2nd Chiltern, 3rd Thames and 4th Peppard

Year 9:1st Chiltern, 2nd Peppard, 3rd Abbey and 4thThames

Year 10: 1st Thames, 2nd Peppard, 3rd Chiltern and 4th Abbey

Year 11: 1st Peppard, 2nd Thames, 3rd Abbey and 4th Chiltern





Well done to all the students who took part in the House quiz, and well done to the victors, Chiltern House.



OUR NEXT EVENT

Rounders tournament – May



PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE



On Wednesday 29 March some of our students performed a variety of acts that they have been working on in extra-curricular Performing Arts clubs this term. The lucky audience enjoyed some dances choreographed by Year 11 students as well as a group of ukelele players and singers. Other highlights included solo instrumental performances, a band performance, a monologue and a couple of scenes from some much-loved musicals. All in all, a total of 15 acts graced the stage, a lot of talent showcased in a hour!



"Opportunity, diversity and success for all"

FUNDRAISING

SCHOOL LOTTERY

If you haven't signed up to the school lottery, please click <u>here</u> to sign up. Tickets are just £1 a week and you could win up to £25,000!!!





SCHOOL LOTTERY

We want to make it possible for all our Year 11s to attend a fabulous Prom being held at the school. Year 11 have been fundraising by selling and delivering Christmas and Valentines cards, car washes, doughnut sales and we have a Go Fund Me page, please donate if you can here: https://gofundme.com/f/making-prom-possible-for-all-year-11s





SECONDHAND UNIFORM

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



Term Dates 2022/2023

Summer Term

17 April – 26 May 2023

5 June – 21 July 2023

Professional Development Days

(school closed to students)

Wednesday 5 July 2023

Term Dates 2022/2023

Autumn Term

05 September – Year 7 & 11 only (Provisionally)

06 September – 20 October 2023

30 October - 20 December 2023

Spring Term

08 January - 09 February 2024

19 February - 28 March 2024

Summer Term

15 April – 24 May 2023

03 June – 24 July 2024

Professional Development Days

(school closed to students)

Friday 01 September 2023

Monday 04 September 2023

Tuesday 14 November 2023

Friday 23 February 2024

Wednesday 03 July 2024

FACILITIES HIRE



We are delighted to be able to offer our facilities for hire to our local community. *Click here for further information.*





