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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



It is with great sadness that I write my final piece for MECE Matters. I took over the role of Headteacher at MECE in January 2020 when the world was a different place. Boris Johnson had just won the election following Theresa May's resignation over Brexit (it feels like a long time ago, doesn't it?), Donald Trump was President of the USA and Extinction Rebellion were protesting across the capital.

I arrived knowing there was job to do, but having been part of a team that had turned around Brakenhale School in Bracknell I felt confident that MECE was definitely winnable. This role and challenge were made all the easier by the backing of Mary Davies, the dynamic CEO of the Maiden Erlegh Trust and for her support and mentorship I will be eternally grateful.

The first few weeks were interesting, observing the routines, the classroom behaviours, the teaching styles, and expectations. It was also interesting to try and garner the state of morale in the staffroom, playground and local community. I visited all our feeder

primaries, met the headteachers and the students, as well as receiving deputations from the parish council, local church, and many interested stakeholders. It was clear that there was lot of support for MECE and its place within the community and landscape.

By March 2020 the atmosphere was changing - expectations of staff and students were clearer, parents were talking differently about the school and there was real progress, however things were about to change. I do not want to linger on Covid but whilst many heads saw it as a disruption to their work, at MECE it was a fabulous opportunity to start again. The staff community was wonderful and the phone calls to students, home visits and live lessons across the two lockdowns helped our students get through a very challenging time and in turn had a positive effect on our image and reputation in the local community. By the time we were fully through Covid in September 2021 the school was a different place and this was seen by our growth in numbers.

## CALENDAR

08 Jan	First Day of Term
w/c 08 Jan	House Sudoku
16 Jan	UNLOC—Year 11
22 Jan	Year 9 — Getting Ready for Options Workshop
26 Jan	Year 9 Options Launch
26 Jan	Year 9 Options Launch for Parents
31 Jan	Bletchley Park Trip

Since then, the school has flourished and blossomed, and this was endorsed by OFSTED's view of our school when they visited in May 2022. This was one of my career high points and my only frustration is the seven pages of fulsome praise that we received in our feedback meeting were condensed into four hundred words for the public report.

Continued on page 2





## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER CONTD...



leaves us for a position at Shiplake College and we wish him all the best for the

The school is a joy to work in and I have found immense pleasure in every working day, seeing staff and students thrive in the positive atmosphere we have created. The challenges of working in education in an increasingly tight recruitment and financial context have been offset by the smiles, the camaraderie, the dopamine glow that you get from seeing young people learning and growing and gaining confidence and becoming the young adults you know they can be.

My highlights have included:

- Numbers rising from 340 to 470 (with 500+ projected next year)
- The OFSTED grade change from 'Inadequate' in 2017 to 'Good' in 2022, which has enabled the school to flourish
- Maths Challenge results - from almost no bronzes to a plethora of gold, silver and bronze awards endorsing our curriculum improvements
- Getting the Duke of Edinburgh award up and running
- Resurrecting the House system and seeing it flourish
- Our image in the community being enhanced
- Teaching and Learning consistency
- Keeping students in education despite the societal and economic challenges so many of our students face
- Trips getting going again - ski trips, history trips, science, DT, maths and theatre trips
- The school shows always being so

amazing despite the annual challenges

•Sports fixtures and clubs - girls' football and rowing clubs doing so well

•The music department resurrecting itself with Battle of the Bands, House Music and singalongs

•The care we give our students so that they can flourish

The last few weeks have demonstrated the positive thriving atmosphere that embodies the school. There has been Mary Poppins Jnr, the Santa Run, numerous fixtures, Presentation Evening, our Year 11 PPE results afternoon and Parents' Evening, Year 7 Meet the Tutor, Astronomy Evening, Year 10 Economics tasters, flu immunisations and much more. Alongside this run the daily diet of lessons, delivered by our enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff and experienced by our students. It is a pleasure to read the positive behaviour log and see how well so many of our students do each day and see how hard they are working. This is cross referenced by my daily walk-rounds where I see so many engaged and diligent students maximising their opportunities and progress. We know the school is still on a journey and having spent time with Mrs Bowers over the last few weeks I am extremely excited by her ideas and confident she will take the school to the 'next level.'

It is also important we use this opportunity to say goodbye to Mr Redrup who has been at the school since September 2020 and has provided our students with a wonderful curriculum and experience in their computing lessons. He

future.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your support, it has meant a lot to read so many positive messages of gratitude and thanks. Special thanks to Neil Petford and David Bird for their generous donations to the school over the last few months, it has really made a difference. It is a challenging role being a headteacher and you are 'damned if you do' and 'damned if you don't' - rules, uniform, Christmas celebrations and homework are examples of just some of things I have done too much of and too little of simultaneously according to my inbox! I know Mrs Bowers will be a great headteacher and I hope you can support her in the same vein as I have experienced.

Take care MECE, be proud of the badge and all the things that go with our wonderful school, I will be keeping an eye on your inevitable further progress.

**Andy Hartley**  
Headteacher



## YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

## YEAR 7

It's been another great term for Year 7, with lots of exciting things happening. My first highlight of the term was the Year 7 girl's football team winning the league. I'm looking forward to seeing how they get on in the county cup! Year 7 also performed brilliantly at the South Oxfordshire Cross Country, some amazing results, including the girl's team placing 2nd overall!

It's brilliant to see continued engagement with the extra-curricular programme, including lots of Year 7 in attendance at the astronomy evening! Students develop so many valuable, transferable skills from extra-curricular activities, it's a vital part of the school experience. Involvement in house competitions has been great, with the year group keen to bring in food to donate to the food bank competition. Inter-house football was also a highlight for me. Seeing the year group working together in their houses and engaging so well with the event filled me with pride.

The history trip to Reading Museum and Abbey ruins was a great success. We received feedback to say the students had conducted themselves impeccably, were very polite and an asset to our school.

It's lovely to drop into lessons and see the students engaging so well and taking pride in their work. Most notably food tech, where I often get a little snack to take away with me!

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

We have had a wonderful start to the year!

Year 8 students were asked to produce a display on their favourite scientific invention and then held a science fair in which these were displayed, and the favourite was picked by the students. There were many examples of excellence by the Year 8 students including a display on the Lateral flow Covid tests, the F1 halo and the Hawk-eye tennis system.

Several Year 8 students are living our school values by being mentors for various Year 7 students. These Year 8s are showing compassion, inclusivity and a great respect for community at MECE by helping smooth the transition into secondary school life for those they are mentoring.

Year 8 Boys have also had the chance to represent the school at a local rugby tournament. Although the tournament ended in heartbreak for the students, it was a wonderful experience to see our students play and represent the school in the wider community.

So far it has been a pleasure to see Year 8 through their first term and I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year holds for this cohort.

**Mr Mount**  
Head of Year 8

## YEAR 10 &amp; 11

It's been a busy time in KS4 as we run up to Christmas. Year 10 & 11 were well represented at the Presentation Evening as prize winners, in the school show and the Santa Run. I have been impressed with how well Year 10 have progressed with their GCSE courses showing maturity and enthusiasm. So many students have demonstrated their supportive and caring side, whether this be mentoring younger students, supporting our house charities and individually with their thoughtfulness. As a school, students completed Attitude of Gratitude thank you cards for staff and the appreciation from students in KS4 was very touching.

My one gripe for KS4 would be missed homework deadlines for a few students, which is an important part of checking understanding and embedding knowledge. Homework Club after school provides a quiet environment with staff available to support and I would strongly encourage students to use this facility if they are not completing homework.

Year 11 have had their PPE assembly and results which was, for some, an emotional time. I urge all students to take this opportunity to reflect where they are now and to plan for the next few months to be in the best position possible for the GCSEs next May. This term Microsoft & Vodafone have been in to talk about apprenticeships and the world of work, plus Reading College came in to give further information on the courses available and ran a workshop to support students with applications. We also visited Henley College for a taster day so students could try out different courses to help them with their post-16 pathways. I am pleased to say the majority of Year 11 students have applied to one or more college/sixth form and many have conditional offers following successful interviews.

Year 11 are currently selling Christmas cards with a personalised delivery service to raise funds towards their Prom. Further fund raising is planned ranging from car washes to cake sales. Badgemore Park Golf Club is booked for Thursday 27 June 2024!

Wishing you and your family a very peaceful and happy Christmas break!



**Ms Ashley**  
Head of Year 10 & 11



## YEAR GROUPS — HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

### YEAR 9

Year 9 continues to work hard and make very pleasing progress. I have been doing some analysis of the data following the recent DCP1 and I am very pleased to report that the 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.

Students completed their first 'straw poll' earlier this month as part of the options process. They carried this out 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 on 25th January, and Year 9 Parents' evening on 6th February.

We were fortunate enough to welcome 5 guests from the Army last week; they delivered workshops on Army careers and teambuilding activities. It was great to see everyone get so involved and behaviour was exemplary - the teambuilding activities involved a challenge to build something 'useful' for the Army. Ideas ranged from jet packs to backpacks which turned into stretchers, and the communication between students during the task was excellent. Well done and thank you to all involved.

I continue to be very pleased with how the students are engaging during tutor times and assemblies. This term's assemblies and subsequent discussions have focused on topics such as Remembrance, Anti-bullying Week, and Disability Awareness. 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!

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 – a reminder that there are no fluffy white socks or laddered tights please!

A special mention must go to all the 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, they are great ambassadors for the school. 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 9 Army Careers Workshop



## ENGLISH



## YEAR 7

In year 7 this term we have been focusing on war and conflict to commemorate Remembrance Day. The whole school took part in a two-minute silence and had 'The Last Post' played for us. This all wove in nicely as we have been looking at words of war and touching on war and conflict poetry. Year 7 were given the task of writing their own poems about war which were all very lovely. All in all, Year 7 have engaged beautifully and have been respectful and approached the subject with great maturity.



## YEAR 8

Year 8 have also been thinking about the themes and language of war. We have touched on certain GCSE poems in preparation, such as Bayonet Charge and Charge of the Light Brigade and these have tied in perfectly with Remembrance Day. Year 8 have engaged really well in this.

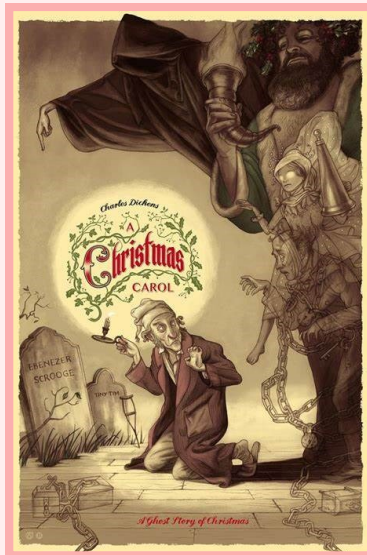


## YEAR 9

This term, Year 9 are reading 'Great Expectations', a novel by Charles Dickens which follows the growth of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice in a country village. He suddenly rises to wealth, leaving his true friends behind and becomes extremely arrogant. They have been focusing on the big ideas of the novel including family, class, morality and crime and justice.

## YEAR 10

More Dickens, this time for Year 10 who are reading 'A Christmas Carol', a story about a miserly old man hypnotised by the power of wealth who is visited by the ghost of his deceased business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a better man with Christmas spirit as they teach him that everyone has the ability to be kinder to one another. Year 10 are thoroughly enjoying this text and have been completing essay-style questions to prepare them for their GCSEs.



## YEAR 11

Year 11 have now completed and received their PPE results. Now is the time to reflect on these results and recognise the areas that require more work.

The English department wishes everyone a very happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming our students back refreshed and raring to go.

Keep reading!

**Mrs Hussain**  
Head of English

## LATIN CLUB

Salve!



Latin club are off to a flying start. Through stories about the famous Caecilius and his family (and slaves!) who lived in Pompeii, we have been learning about how Romans lived, what their houses were like, their food and how they spent their time. Students have done research into the characters' lives and homes and we even made roman bread!

The language is super interesting and students have been learning the quite complex grammar (nominative, accusative and noun declensions!) but enjoyed using it like cracking codes.

We are looking forward to continuing in the Spring.

**Ms Green**  
Latin Teacher



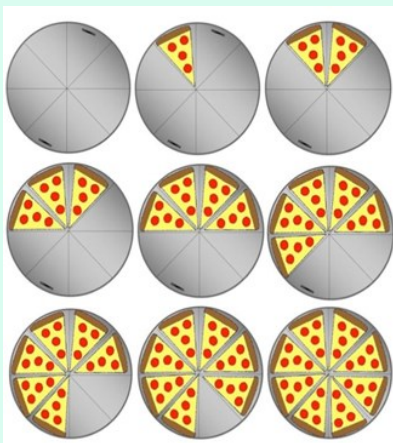


# MATHS



Mathematics is a subject that provides a foundation for logical reasoning and problem-solving skills. At any given academic year, students in different year groups focus on specific topics and concepts to deepen their understanding of mathematical principles. Let's take a closer look at what each year group is exploring in the mathematics department.

**Year 7** students have been busy delving into the world of fractions, decimals, and percentages. They have been introduced to the fundamental concepts of these numerical representations and have been working on various exercises to enhance their skills in manipulating and converting between fractions, decimals, and percentages. Additionally, the top sets in Year 7 have been challenged with expanding brackets, a topic that introduces them to algebraic expressions and lays the groundwork for more advanced algebraic concepts in the future. Year 7 students have made an excellent start to the academic year and continue to make progress in their mathematical abilities.



Moving on to **Year 8**, students are still exploring the realm of fractions but with a focus on how these concepts are applied in real-world scenarios. They are learning about practical applications of fractions in areas such as finance, measurements and data representation. By understanding how fractions are used in everyday life, Year 8 students gain a deeper appreciation for the relevance and usefulness of mathematical concepts beyond the classroom.

In **Year 9**, students have been strengthening their number skills and focusing on problem-solving methods. They have been exposed to various strategies and techniques that enable them to tackle more complex mathematical problems found in exam papers. By exploring different problem-solving approaches, Year 9 students are developing their critical thinking and analytical skills, which are valuable across various disciplines. Furthermore, they are eagerly anticipating their upcoming trip to Bletchley Park on Wednesday, 31 January 2024. The visit to this historic site, known for its role in codebreaking during World War II, promises to be an exciting and educational experience for the students.

**Year 10** students are currently



engaged in the study of ratio and proportion problems. They are learning how to analyse and solve problems involving ratios and proportions, which play a significant role in various real-world scenarios such as scaling, mixing ingredients, and financial planning. Additionally, Year 10 students are focusing on building their exam technique, equipping themselves with the necessary skills and strategies to excel in their upcoming assessments. Finally, **Year 11** students have recently completed their Pre-Public

Examinations (PPE) and are now working through their content. This phase involves revisiting key mathematical concepts and consolidating their understanding through practice and revision. Year 11 is a critical year for students as they prepare for their final examinations, and the focus is on refining their knowledge and skills to achieve their best possible results.

**Mrs Chopra**  
Head of Maths



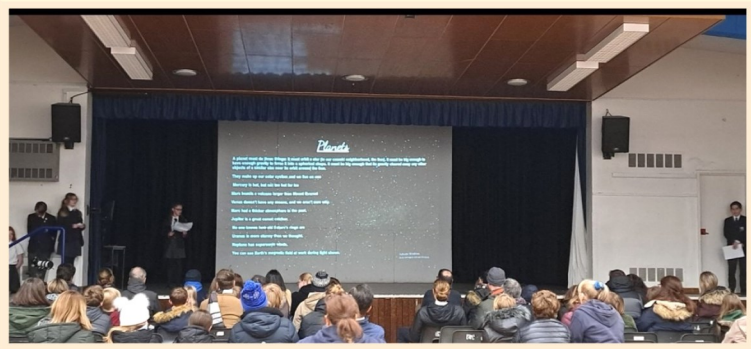
## REGULAR MATHS CLUBS

Mon Lunch time	Puzzle Pirates with Mrs Priest in M2
Tues Lunch time	A Level Math Club for KS4 Higher Maths Students, Mrs Gopal, M3
Tues 3:15— 4.15pm	Maths Drop in, Miss Chopra, M1 (All Years)



## SCIENCE

This term was very busy for the science department, as we held our annual Astronomy evening. It was fantastic to see so many families take part, and we hope you had a great time. We were delighted to have volunteers from Reading Astronomical Society, who brought their telescopes and gave two presentations. Fortunately, we had good weather and were able to see Saturn and Jupiter using the telescopes. Stem club also presented on the evening. Well done to Elliot, Konstantinos, Grace, Deanna, Morgan, Murray, Misa, Paige and Brooke for their efforts on the night.



### Year 7

This term, Year 7 have been studying their first biology topic. They have been looking at cells and learning how to use a microscope. The students have successfully taken swabs of their own cheek cells and examined them. They then progressed on to onion cells, and were able to compare the similarities and differences between animal and plant cells.

### Year 8

Year 8 have been looking at chemical reactions in greater depth this term. This topic allowed students to develop many of their practical skills. The students have studied reactions between metals and acids, and created their own red cabbage indicator to test for acids and alkalis.

### Year 9

Year 9 students have started their first biology topic of the science GCSE. This topic looks at cells, microscopes, transport mechanisms and bacteria. It has been brilliant to see so many students working

really hard each lesson. The students investigated the effect of different antiseptics on bacteria growth, and measured the zone of inhibition to determine which antiseptic was most effective at preventing bacterial growth.

### Year 10

Year 10 have been studying different diseases and the immune system. We have been impressed with the hard work of these students, and how so many are giving 100% every single lesson.

### Year 11

This term, Year 11 have been focusing on chemistry. They have been looking at rates of chemical reactions and organic chemistry. Year 11 also received their PPE results this term. As a science department, we were pleased how hard some of the students worked in preparation for these exams.

**Mrs Sarpong**  
Head of Science

## Homework



A reminder that science homework is set on Carousel. We have been pleased that so many students have been completing this each week, but there are still many where this could improve. The link to the homework is posted on Bromcom and Google classroom each week. Students do not need a login or password, but will need to enter their name as it appears on the register to access.





## HUMANITIES

## GEOGRAPHY



# COP28

**Year 7** have continued to build on their knowledge and skills within geography. They have completed their first assessment task for the first topic 'map skills' and have now moved onto their second topic exploring the development, characteristics and change within settlements. It has been very pleasing to see the students using a wider range of specialist geographical vocabulary in their verbal contributions and discussion tasks, whereby we have been exploring the change in Reading and London over time.

**Year 8** finished their first topic of 'natural hazards' with their first assessment. This piece of work really challenged the student's understanding of tectonic processes and specialist vocabulary. More recently, Year 8 have made a great start exploring the continent of Africa, looking at the physical and human geography, and discussing common misconceptions people may have about the diverse continent.

**Year 9** finished their first topic of 'globalisation' with a challenging assessment that put to the test their skills of interpretation, source analysis and evaluation of the impacts of an ever-changing and globalised world. More recently, the year group have been developing their knowledge and understanding of the physical and human causes of climate change, with issues around plastic pollution and palm oil production as areas of study to follow. Their inquisitive questions and open-minded approach to learning has been pleasing to see.

**Year 10** have continued to show dedication towards their GCSE course. Having completed the 'Living World' section of Paper 1: Living with the physical environment, they are now exploring the opportunities and challenges in Rio de Janeiro as part of Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment. It has been great to see developments in their written work, especially with use of key terminology and exam technique and structure.

Having recently completed their PPE assessments and receiving grades for their subjects, **Year 11** will now focus on their grades achieved in geography and reflect on their performance. The coming lessons will focus on feedback and individual reflection, whilst also creating targets for the coming months. In lessons, Year 11 have been developing their knowledge and understanding of the ever-changing economic world in which we live, exploring the myriad of consequences associated with the development gap, and the opportunity of tourism to close this gap in Jamaica.

I wish all students and families a restful Christmas break.

**Mr Sheridan**  
Head of Geography



Eight students from Year 10 recently took part in the Reading Schools' Climate Conference at the Reading Civic Office Council Chambers, alongside students from across the Reading area. This event saw our students assuming the roles of Barbados and Egypt, debating current climate issues alongside the real COP28 event taking place in the UAE. The day finished with students exploring climate action in our local area. Well done to - Dariia P, Lola S, Emma T, Amanda DG, Immy H, Will K, Isla R and Jamie W. An outstanding contribution and performance by MECE students!



# Geography Club

Geography Club continues to be a great hit! Taking place each Thursday lunchtime in HUM4, 13:30-13:50. In recent weeks, students from different year groups have presented on aspects of geography that interest them. Well done to Will K (airports from around the world), James H (Portugal), David B (Gibraltar), Vini D (Brazil).





## HUMANITIES

### HISTORY & RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

This term has been a busy one for us in the History and Religion and Philosophy Department. Mrs Smith has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to transform and update the Religion and Philosophy curriculum. We have also welcomed our new History and Religion and Philosophy teacher, Mr Mount. He has made a great contribution to the team and has been a real hit with the students! We have also been enjoying collaborating with Geography and getting to know Mr Sheridan our new Head of Geography. Our new department base is looking full of life now that there are three of us based here and it has become a real hub of learning for the students.



**Mrs Smith**  
Head of History and Religion  
and Philosophy

## READING MUSEUM

We had a fabulous time taking some of our Year 7 historians to Reading Museum and Reading Abbey. This was in preparation for this half term's topic on the Norman Conquest of England. We had an interactive session learning about the key contenders to the throne of England in 1066. The students were even able to get dressed up and act out the main events. We also had a visit to the Abbey ruins and engaged in some traditional Tudor dancing. The students were an absolute credit to the school and themselves! Year 7 on the whole have made a fantastic start to their time as historians at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge!



## FOOD &amp; DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



**Year 11** have been hard at work on their GCSE Food and Nutrition, and spending time focussed on some delicious practical pieces. Here are some of those by Theo R, Amelia H and Neve B.



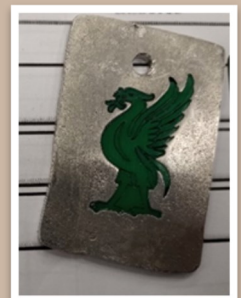
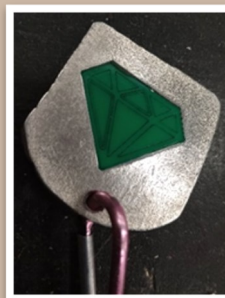
**Year 8** have been extremely busy with the Great British Bake Off. The winners will be announced at the end of term assembly, but in the meantime, here are a selection of the wonderful creations. Work here is by Amy W & Libby S, Oscar P & Jenson W and Ellie N.



**Year 10** Design Tech have been completing their Speaker units. Designs have been varied and creative. Work here is from Zara W, Eric Z and Jaimie F



KS3 Design Technology students have been working on their practical designs. Year 8 have completed their acrylic inlayed pewter casting products and Year 9 have been finishing their clocks. Work here from Lily K, Tyler B, Chloe C and Oscar C.



**Mr Reskalla**  
Head of Art, Design and Technology





## ART &amp; DESIGN



@MECEADTI

## DESIGN MUSEUM

Last month the KS4 Design and Technology students were taken on a trip to the Design Museum in Kensington. They spent the day exploring the permanent exhibition 'Designer, User, Maker' as well as engaging in the workshop about chair design and analysis.

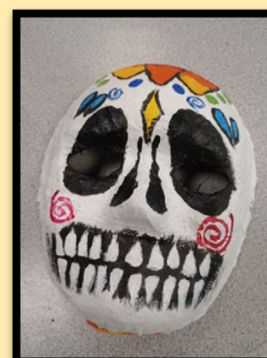
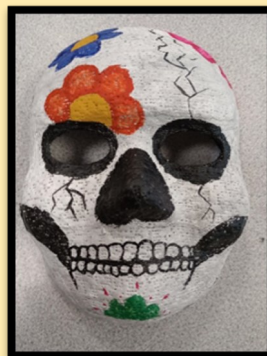
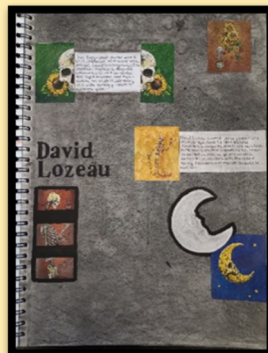


Wishing you all a very merry Christmas from the ADT department.

**Mr Reskalla**  
Head of Art, Design and Technology

## ART

Year 10 Art have been busy this half term starting their 'Cultural Identity' project and - in particular - have been focussing on 'Day of the Dead' references. Work here is from Izaak E, Izzy E, Lianna B and Erin M.



## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Mrs Boden and her team cooked up a storm this week for the school Christmas dinner, the students loved it and particularly enjoyed being waited on by Mr Hartley and the staff! And thank you, Mr Agar, for decorating the canteen and making it feel so festive!



## PERFORMING ARTS



@MECE\_PA



## DRAMA

In **Year 7**, we have been honing our mime skills by exploring three different kinds of mime. As part of this learning, we have discussed effective communication with an audience through movement and how to use exaggerated facial expressions to show reactions in a performance.

**Year 8** have been studying the origins of theatre by learning about Greek Theatre from around 2500 years ago. As part of our learning, we have used different Greek myths to perform in the style of Greek Theatre. These include Perseus and Medusa and the story of Oedipus.

**Year 9** have really impressed me recently with their work on the very challenging performance style of Commedia dell'arte. 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.

GCSE students in **Year 10** recently presented their devised performances based on the tragic tale of Martha Corey who was killed for being a witch during the Salem Witch Trials in 1692. As part of this work, students have also been writing a portfolio of their creative process. This is in preparation for the first Non-examined Assessment later in the year which is worth 30% of their final grade.

Students in **Year 11** have been preparing for their NEA which will see the students presenting two performances to a visiting examiner towards the end of February. Students are rehearsing scenes from a play adapted from Neil Gaiman's celebrated *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*. I would like to remind Year 11 Drama students to learn their lines over the holidays!

**Mr Harte**  
Head of Performing Arts

## MUSIC

1<sup>ST</sup>2<sup>nd</sup>3<sup>rd</sup>

It has been a very busy half term in music. Rehearsals for both Mary Poppins and the Battle of the Bands competition have taken centre stage. Performance assessments have been completed by all classes and great progress has been made by many students.

**Year 7** have been continuing their work on chords and harmony on both the ukulele and the keyboard, alongside developing their vocal skills. This has culminated in students working in small groups singing a selection of songs and accompanying themselves.

**Year 8** students have concluded their band skills work by learning and performing sections from popular songs by either Ed Sheeran or Adele.

**Year 9** had a fabulous lesson off timetable in the hall on Thursday 30 November where the seven bands through to the grand final performed their pieces. Our acclaimed judges (Ms Biddis and Mr Harte) judged, and awarded 1st place to Jack W, Spencer W and Charlie G. 2nd place to Samuel S, Thomas D and Logan S and 3rd place to Imogen C, Max B, Charlie G, Jack W and Samuel S. Well done to all who performed so well.

**Becki Brown**  
Music Teacher



## PERFORMING ARTS

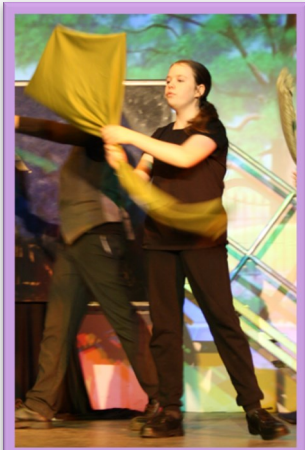


@MECE\_PA

## MARY POPPINS JNR



This is our busiest term in the school year as we prepare for the school production. Preparations began in June when we announced the show, *Mary Poppins Jr* and ran auditions. Since receiving their scripts in July, the cast have been working hard to learn lines, learn lyrics, learn choreography and all the other aspects of putting on a show. Rehearsals have taken up lunch times several times a week, after school and on the odd weekend too for good measure. It is therefore very gratifying to see all that hard work start to come together ready for our opening night. It was wonderful to see so many of you in the audience!



"Opportunity, diversity and success for all"



PERFORMING ARTS



@MECE\_PA

MARY POPPINS JNR





*On your last day at MCEE, thank you for giving me:*

*12 teachers teaching, 11 sports teams playing, 10 weekly line-ups,*

*9 golden tickets, 8 litter pickings,*

*7 children playing, 6 canteen queue jumps,*

*silence is golden,*

*4 school houses, 3 ping pong tables,*

*2 eyes on me,*

*and the one and only Mr Hartley*



### Term Dates 2024

#### 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 23 February 2024

Wednesday 03 July 2024

### Term Dates 2024

#### Autumn Term

04 September - Year 7 & 11 only (provisionally)

05 September – 25 October 2024

06 November – 20 December 2024

#### Spring Term

06 January – 14 February 2025

24 February – 04 April 2025

#### Summer Term

22 April – 23 May 2025

02 June – 23 July 2025

#### Professional Development Days (school closed to students)

Monday 02 September 2024

Tuesday 03 September 2024

Tuesday 05 November 2024

Friday 28 February 2025

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