



Message from the Head



What a term!

Starting with an unexpected new job and finishing with the confirmation that I will continue to lead this wonderful school moving forwards. Over the course of the last 12 weeks I have experienced a fair few bumps in the road but also the most incredible support, positivity and enthusiasm from students, staff, parents and the wider community beyond – a heartfelt thank you from me to you all. A school year has distinct cycles and the Spring term is very much the engine room of the year: Year 11 in their final stages of GCSEs getting coursework completed and submitted and revision programmes kicking in, Year 9 making GCSE options

choices, Year 7 have found their feet and we see them start to flourish and Years 8 & 10 settled into their respective years and getting stuck in to devouring the course content. It is also a time when clubs and trips are in full swing with opportunities across the year groups that have included photography competitions & workshops, Intra Trust football, & careers fairs – I am hugely grateful to MECE staff who not only seek out these wonderful opportunities for students but give their time to sort the logistics, prep the content and supervise visits alongside their day-to-day commitments.

It has also been important to me to look outward and I am proud of the work started with Sonning Common Primary School just this week and the exciting opportunities that are coming up across the summer term with local Primary Schools, not to mention the wealth of activities planned to support Year 6 transition ready for September 2025.

There are lots of ways that you can support the school including at the upcoming School Spring Clean Up (26 April) and the CESA quiz (9 May) – links can be found on the website with more details of how to get involved.

Wishing all the students (and staff) safe travels to Iceland and Italy on the Geography and ski trips respectively and to you all - a lovely Easter break. I look forward to seeing students back in school Tuesday 22 April.

What's coming up?

22 April	RETURN TO SCHOOL
23 April	Y6 NEW STARTERS SOCIAL
26 April	SCHOOL SPRING CLEAN UP
1 May	Y7 & 8 UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE
5 May	BANK HOLIDAY
6 May	Y10 WORLD OF WORK WEEK
9 May	CESA QUIZ
14 May	Y9 VACCINATIONS
22 May	Y10 PARENTS' EVENING
26 May	HALF TERM
2 June	INSET DAY
13 June	D OF E CAMP
25 June	HAMPTON COURT TRIP
26 June	Y11 PROM
26 June	OPEN MORNING (FIRST OF 4)
2 July	Y7 PARENTS' EVENING
7 July	Y6 PARENT INFO EVENING
16 July	SPORTS DAY
23 July	LAST DAY OF TERM (12:30 FINISH)



Modern Foreign Languages

In MFL, Year 7 have been learning about school subjects, timetable and school rules.

Students have enjoyed learning about the different cultures between schools in Britain and in France.



Year 8 lessons have focussed on cinema and free-time activities. This has led to students sharing with their peers what they do outside school.

Year 9 have been learning about food and healthy eating which has followed on to the environment and endangered animals.

Year 9 are currently working on a project in groups where they will be showcasing general knowledge linking to French knowledge.

Year 10 finished their first GCSE topic (people and lifestyle) on the lead up to their PPE.

Year 11 completed their speaking mocks, with great success for many and have been working positively towards their exams.

PE

This term we have teams playing in the local football leagues. Students from Years 7-10 have been taking part in matches against local schools.



The girls football tournament was particularly good with a number of Year 7 girls playing in their first football matches. They won against River and lost to MES. Our Year 9 girls coached and refereed all the matches and were great ambassadors.

Six Year 9 girls have been doing a coaching course and will be working with girls who are less confident playing sport. A new club will start after the break.

Kitty J, Poppy E, Jack W and Fred W attended a leadership course to support SEN children participate in sport. After half term they will be supporting KS3 SEN students with weekly sensory circuits.

Mr Kafroshi has settled in really well and has been

organising daily sports at break time in our sports hall - handball, basketball and volleyball all introduced.

Drama - 'All the World's A Stage'

Year 7 have been exploring the works of Shakespeare this term. We have been to 'fair city of Verona' when we looked at the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, to the towers of Elsinore castle in Hamlet, ending up upon stormy seas in The Tempest!

Year 8 have been learning about the performance style of Physical Theatre. We have taken inspiration from the international devising group Off Balance to create our own performance which focus on use of choreographed movement to communicate ideas to an audience.

Year 9 worked in large groups this term as they produced an ensemble performance based on a key moment in Willy Russell's Blood Brothers. The students worked hard to create a tense, sombre and tragic atmosphere in their performances.

Year 10 students have begun their first examined piece – devising their own performances based on a stimulus from the exam board. I can't wait to see what they create!

Year 11. After a trip to see the hilarious Pride and Prejudice* (*Sort of),



Year 11 Drama students are preparing and practising in earnest for their Drama written exam. As the exams approach, the best revision they can be doing is practice questions. Practice, practice, practice for the real thing!

English

This term Year 7 have immersed themselves in the world of Shakespeare. They have explored the complexity of his plays and learned to appreciate the richness of the language and themes that have stood the test of time. We have already seen great progress in their language skills and look forward to seeing how they continue to thrive towards the end of the academic year.

In Year 8, students have been delving into Blood Brothers, exploring its themes of fate, social class and the complexities of family relationships. They've worked hard to understand the characters' motivations and the social context of the play,



developing both critical thinking and empathy.

Year 9 have kicked off their study of Journey's End with tremendous enthusiasm. The deep themes of war, sacrifice, and camaraderie has sparked meaningful discussions, and the maturity they've shown in exploring these topics has been impressive. Their focus on improving their analytical and inferential skills has been evident in their work. In addition, the year group have made excellent progress in preparing for their GCSEs, particularly in building their understanding of character development and dramatic structure. Ms Thomas has been exceptionally impressed with their level of engagement.



This term, Year 10 have been engrossed in A Christmas Carol and now focusing on the Power and Conflict poetry anthology. The depth of their analysis has been outstanding as they explore the themes of social injustice, the human condition, and the effects of power.

As Year 11 prepare for their GCSEs, they have been working relentlessly to consolidate their knowledge. Their commitment to revision, especially in poetry and literature, has been exceptional. Mrs Roberts has been providing targeted support in preparations for the exams, ensuring students feel confident and ready to tackle their GCSEs. Keep up the amazing work Year 11 and continue to work hard!

Sparx Reader:

The introduction of Sparx Reader to Years 7 and 8 has been a big success, allowing students to

develop their reading skills while also enhancing their understanding of literature. The program has enhanced students' reading fluency and comprehension. Miss Jackson has been thrilled with students' engagement in this program

Science

Stem Club

Years 7 and 8 have been involved in a number of projects including making their own effervescent lava lamps, studying microorganisms and, more recently, tracking the metamorphosis of frog spawn.

Science poetry competition

Students are also taking part in a science of poetry writing competition. Students are tasked with writing a science related poem in a style of their own choosing. Winning poems will be in with a chance of having their work published and performed at the Oxford Science and Ideas Festival.

Maths



As the countdown towards the GCSEs progresses, this term has seen the Year 11s practising past papers and revising topics from previous years. Recently, they also had their second round of PPEs, and some are now seeing 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 their final hurdle in their MECE journey!

In the meantime, the Year 10 foundation students have been deepening their knowledge on 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 angles in circles and quadratic simultaneous equations.

Year 9 higher students have studied more complex topics such as surds but also studied percentages and were introduced to bank accounts. Similarly, foundation students also studied percentages and worked with area and volume of 2D and 3D shapes.

On March 14th, we celebrated Pi Day. Students in Year 8 and Year 7 were introduced to and the area and circumference of a circle.

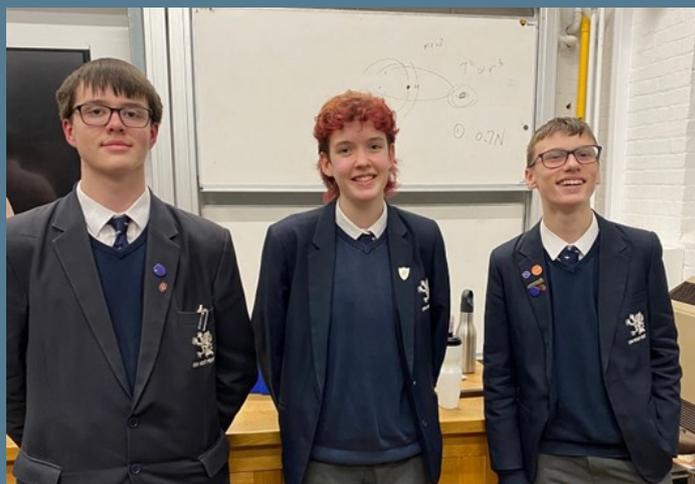


This term, Year 7s have also been introduced to algebra and data analysis. They learnt the basic skills such as solving, expanding and simplifying which will be used every year as the topic gets more complicated.



Historical Society ‘Great Debate’

In February Toby A, Emma T & Samuel S competed against students from years 10-13 from schools across the local area. Students were asked to prepare a speech on “Local History and its wider Impacts” and our topics included the Slave Trade in Reading and the importance of Blgrave Street, the historical importance of the Huntley & Palmers biscuit factory and the development of the Reading train network. Following fierce competition, we were awarded a place in the National semi-final later in the term – an outstanding achievement!



REACH visit

This term, our Year 7 students have been studying the core beliefs of Christianity as part of Religious Studies. We were fortunate enough to have a couple of sessions which were lead by REACH, a local Christian charity who work in schools. Last week, they created an immersive, interactive session all about Easter. The students were able to meet some of the main characters in the Easter story and took part in a court scene to determine whether Jesus was guilty of his accused crimes. This really brought the Easter story to life and it was a fantastic way of learning about a key Christian belief.



David Harber Workshop

In January a small group of budding artists from year 9 visited the studios of renowned award winning

garden sculpture David Harber. They toured the gardens, visited the workshop before meeting David in his design office and sketching their own ideas for a sculpture.



Careers Fest

In March students in year 10 attended the Careers Fest In Oxford where they were able to interact with employees from a vast range of sectors, including the ambulance service who instructed them in CPR! It was a positive morning that left the students with plenty of ideas to explore.

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

DofE has seen over half of Year 9 taking part in weekly sessions learning about camp craft map reading, meal planning and emergency first aid in preparation for their school expeditions in May and June.



Natural World Photography Competition

Our photography competition was launched in February and we received some really strong entries, the entries were judged by Miss Bliss and highly experienced local photographer & MECE parent Caroline Jones



Winning Photos



The winners were:

Olivia H (Y7),

Evan C (Y7),

Elliot M (Y9)

Thomas D (Y10)

Samuel S (Y10)

Their stunning images will be displayed around the school.

The winners also took part in a photography workshop with Caroline Jones. During the workshop they learnt more about light, perspective and composition as well as exchanging knowledge about advances in photography.

They also experimented with cyanotype photography, creating images, exposing them in the sun and cleaning to show the final result.



Photography Workshop



Year 11

Year 11 have had a fantastic term, demonstrating dedication, leadership, and community spirit. They have been actively fundraising for prom, from a successful bake sale to the prom committee's brilliant staff car wash. It has been wonderful to see students leading assemblies, including an inspiring one for Kindness Week. Their focus and excellent behaviour during the PPEs have been commendable, and many have shown real commitment by attending intervention sessions to support their progress. In their NEA assessments, our Food and Nutrition students impressed with incredible dishes, showcasing their creativity and skills. A special highlight was the Year 11 girls' prom dress sale, which was a lovely afternoon of preparation and excitement for the big day.



With GCSEs fast approaching, the final push is on! Next term, we look forward to the Year 11 boys' prom suit sale and making the most of the remaining time to prepare. Keep going, Year 11 – you're nearly there!

Year 10

This term, Year 10 students have demonstrated fantastic commitment and enthusiasm across a range of activities. We had great success in the UKMT Maths Challenge, with some impressive results showcasing their problem-solving skills. Many students have been actively working towards their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, developing resilience and teamwork along the way. Our football and netball teams have represented the school brilliantly in fixtures, and students



showed exemplary behaviour on the recent Careers Fair trip, making the most of the opportunity to explore future pathways. In addition, their focus and engagement during the 'How to Revise' session have been commendable. It has also been wonderful to see so many Year 10 students receiving praise postcards in recognition of their dedication and embodiment of our school values.

Looking ahead, next term brings some exciting opportunities, including PPE Week, World of Work Week (featuring a day of work shadowing), and the launch of our new Student Leadership Team. Well done, Year 10 – keep up the fantastic work!

Year 9

This year has been an important one for Year 9. They have selected their GCSE options, and we have been busy working behind the scenes to make allocations. All the students handed their forms in on time and I was really impressed with the positive engagement from students that showed a real maturity. As ever we will remind them to continue to participate in all their subject lessons even if they will not be carrying those on in Year 10! I look forward to sharing their allocations with them next term.

This year lots of the students have been getting involved in leadership through PE, including sports mentoring and coaching school teams, it has been fantastic to see the confidence of those students growing and those valuable life skills developing.

I was hugely impressed with the massive turn out for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award this year with nearly half the year group participating, it is a brilliant opportunity for students and it is great that so many have chosen to take it up.

I have been proud to continue this year with you Year 9, please keep up the good work as we go into the Summer term!

Year 8

Year 8 have had an incredibly eventful and successful year so far, with numerous achievements to celebrate. From September through to the Easter break, they have fully embraced every opportunity and shown unwavering commitment to both their studies and extracurricular activities.

There have been countless moments that have made me so proud of this year group. A few highlights include their fantastic performances in the school play, which were filled with energy and team spirit. Their involvement in the Science Fair was another standout, with impressive projects that showcased their curiosity and dedication to learning. Year 8 have also been active participants in the Sparx reader launch, displaying enthusiasm for expanding their reading skills and fostering a love for books.

Throughout the year so far, they've also represented



the school during Open Mornings and Open Evening, confidently leading school tours for prospective student and their families. Their enthusiasm and pride in their school were evident as they answered questions, shared their experiences, and made everyone feel welcome.



In addition to their academic and extracurricular involvement, year 8 have also excelled in sporting fixtures, showing determination, teamwork, and school spirit. As a year group, we have been working hard on our homework initiative and kindness incentive, demonstrating a genuine care for their peers and a strong sense of responsibility towards their learning. These efforts not only have contributed to the school community but also helped foster a supportive and positive atmosphere across the year group.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the year so far, has been watching Year 8 grow and mature into confident, responsible students. From their engagement in lessons, to their participation in activities outside of the classroom.

As we approach the Easter break, I couldn't be prouder of how Year 8 have taken on every challenge and opportunity. I'm excited to see what the rest of the year holds for them, and I look forward to supporting them as they continue to excel in both academic and personal growth. It's been a privilege to be their Head of Year, and I can't wait to see them continue to shine in the coming months.

Year 7

Since joining MECE in January, it has been a pleasure getting to know the Year 7 students. I am so grateful for their warm welcome and kindness. It's been a delight to see how many of them demonstrate impeccable manners and show genuine respect towards both their peers and staff.

One of the highlights of my time so far has been watching Year 7 engage in a workshop with Reach about Christianity. The students offered insightful responses and showcased the significant progress they've made in their religion and philosophy lessons. The volunteers delivering the workshop were impressed by both their knowledge and conduct.

It's also been fantastic to see so many Year 7 students fully embracing the opportunities at MECE, particularly in the sports arena. I had the chance to attend a boys' football match against Wheatley, where I was thrilled to see the students working together as a cohesive and positive team.



As we head into the summer term, I'm excited to visit more Year 7 lessons and continue witnessing their genuine enthusiasm for learning.



School Spring Clean Up

Saturday 26 April

3 - 6pm

Please join us for an afternoon of hard work - gallons of tea and piles of biscuits supplied!

- Gardening - weeding & planting
- Tidying - sweeping & litter collecting
- DIY - painting & fence repair
- Cleaning - window washing

- If you are unable to attend and would like to donate materials or equipment please feel free to contact the school directly - meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
- If you are a parent you can make a donation via ParentPay
- We also have an Amazon Gift List, which can be found [here](#) or by scanning the QR code



Whilst we welcome on the day volunteers, it is really useful to have an idea of numbers and ensure everyone coming is included in communications beforehand, please can you fill in a short form [here](#) or email meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

Please bring:

Spades, forks, rakes, hoes, weeding forks, trowels, secateurs, loppers, gardening gloves, trugs, brooms, dustpans & brushes, buckets, & window washing equipment, electric screwdrivers, saws, paint scrapers,

Remember to wear old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or stained!



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL
LOCALS WELCOME!
READES LN
READING RG4 9LN



QUIZ

FRIDAY
9TH
MAY

PRIZES FOR
1ST, 2ND
& 3RD
PLACE

£10
PER
PERSON

NIGHT

BOOK
BY
6TH
MAY



Doors 6.30pm • Starts 7pm

Adults only - 6 per team max • Nibbles included • Fully licensed bar

Cheese board for six £10 • Cakes, chocolates, snacks on sale

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams

HOW TO BOOK

Email your team name and team members to: cesa.mece@gmail.com

SEND TICKET AND CHEESE BOARD PAYMENTS TO
Chiltern Edge School Association Account number: 13019627 Sort code: 60-10-35

Your table will only be reserved with full payment
All payments to be made at time of booking

Look forward to seeing you all on the night



If your child has any out grown school uniform or PE kit and it's now lurking at the back of the wardrobe please consider donating to CESA - All proceeds go towards MECE! You can hand in at reception.

Uniform,
jumble, prom
dress/suit &
cake sale

SUNDAY 11
MAY

10 - 1pm

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Do you have any old small inkjet printer cartridges, tablets, mobile phones or unused cartridges that you no longer need or use? Why leave them taking up space?

Please donate them to support CESA to raise funds for our school! The collection box is located in reception!



Empty Cartridge Recycling

Through recycling appeals over 2 million pounds has been raised for various organisations.

Recycling can help teach children how to responsibly take care of the environment

Did you know?

More than 30 million inkjet cartridges are dumped each year in the UK (1800 tonnes)

Each inkjet can take up to 1000 years to decompose.

On average, in the UK, mobile phone users upgrade their handsets every 18 months
It is thought that only 20% of these are ever reused or recycled



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