



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

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



As we close this school year, I am delighted to share with you this edition of MECE Matters full of all the amazing opportunities which this school has to offer both in and out of the classroom. MECE really is a place where our young people can find and pursue their passions and 'aim high' in its widest sense. None of this would be possible without the teachers and support staff who generously give their time and their expertise, and I am grateful for their support. If you share our love for this community, please shout about it in your social media networks and to your friends, even share this edition of MECE matters so that they can see for themselves. I wish you and your family a relaxing summer break. See you in September. Best wishes

Briony Bowers
Headteacher

Head Student Election 24/25

Following a robust process whereby students had to write an application, present to their year group and complete an interview with SLT we were all blown away with the quality of the 8 candidates who applied for a Head Student role. I would like to thank all the staff who have been involved in running this process for their support and encouragement of the students. Next year there will be an even broader range of student leadership roles including Head Students, Well-being team, Mental Health Champions, House Captains, Sports Captains, and Subject Champions. The other student leadership roles have also been appointed and we are happy to announce that Wellbeing ambassador: Eleanor C, Anti-bullying leads, Liv G & Anusha S, Mentor Lead, Kacey Cameron. We are extremely proud of all our MECE students who put some much time and effort into applying for the various roles of student leadership.

CALENDAR

04 September	Year 7 & 11 First Day of Term
05 September	Year 8,9 & 10 First Day of Term
12 September	KS4 Information Evening
19 September	Year 7 Parent Welcome Event
25 September	Open Morning

Introducing our new Assistant Headteacher

▶ Roddy Clark

We would like to welcome Roddy Clark, as our new Assistant Headteacher.

Roddy, who joins us in September, is currently an Assistant Headteacher in charge of student engagement at a secondary school in Slough, where he has been working for the past 13 years. He has a degree in Physical Education from The University of Wolverhampton and went on to complete the Graduate Teaching Programme through The University of Reading in 2011. Within this time he has conducted a number of roles within the PE department, Head of Sixth Form and most recently within Senior Leadership.

Growing up in the area, sport has been a mainstay in Roddy's life participating in Football, Basketball and Rugby. However, more recently he is taking pleasure in spectating rather than playing! Roddy is very much looking forward to joining Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge and hopes his experiences will add value to the Trust historically.

Open Mornings & Transition Days

Year 5 open morning for Sonning Common Primary School

A few weeks ago the year 5s from Sonning Common Primary joined us for a MECE taster morning! As well as a talk from Mrs Bowers and a tour around the school they enjoyed taster sessions for Drama with Mr Harte and Philosophy with Mrs Smith. Mr Harte said: *'Year 5 students engaged really well, demonstrating a range of teamwork skills, movement skills and good creativity, as they all took part in Drama games and activities. There are definitely some budding stars of the stage in the group and I hope to see lots of them at our production of Bugsy Malone in December!'* Mrs Smith said: *'The Year 5s had a mind blowing time asking some of the big philosophical questions of life. I was so impressed by some of the big thinking going on by the students. Questions like 'what is the purpose of life?' and 'how do we know we're not dreaming?' were a plenty! A big well done to all of the students who engaged so well in the session and don't forget my golden rule... to never stop asking questions!'* We also had some great feedback from the Sonning Common Primary students:

"Really enjoyed the morning seeing the school and visiting some lessons"

"The MECE students who were with us were really kind and answered all my questions"

"The Philosophy lesson was something completely new - I'd really like to keep learning about this stuff"

"I love performing and can't wait for when I'm in Y7 and can have Drama lessons every week and get to be in the big school show".

Year 6 Induction

Earlier in July we were hugely excited to welcome our upcoming year 7s to MECE for their formal induction. At the start of the week there was an additional session for a small group of students which was well-attended and well received by students and their parents. That evening we welcomed all parents to their 'induction' where tutor groups and House Allocations were revealed. The end of the week saw our 2 transition days where students spent time with their new tutor group and experienced some lessons on the Thursday and in House Teams on Friday where they completed a number of creative tasks including learning the MECE song. Some students even took advantage of a Street Dance workshop taking place over lunchtime. Over the 2 days students were awarded House Points for participation, kindness and achievement contributing to their House totals for the academic year. The inaugural "Induction Day Challenge" was won by Peppard. The days were rounded off with a

celebration assembly that parents were invited to where students demonstrated some of their learning from across the days and performed in 'The Big Sing'. Year 6 students conducted themselves brilliantly across the days and certainly were excellent ambassadors for their current schools. Year 6 students were set 2 Challenges for September too. The first to create a "All about ME" piece of artwork for the Headteacher's challenge, and the second as part of our ongoing Reading drive at MECE was to complete the Summer Text "Running on the Roof of the World" and then complete one of the 2 tasks. We look forward to seeing their creations in the first week back and rewarding the participation and effort of all with House Points. Students were supported across the days by MECE Student ambassadors who acted both as guides between lessons, House Point Collectors and provided the encouragement for all to get involved. A huge thank you to them for their enthusiasm!

A Message From the Head of Years



Year 7 have had a fantastic transition year, with lots of wonderful things to celebrate.

There have been many moments that have filled me with pride but to name a few: the fantastic science projects presented at the fair, attendance at clubs, performances at the house music competition, representing the school in sports fixtures, welcoming new students, winning kindness initiatives, leading school tours, amazing UKMT results, supportive friendships, speaking at events and many many more. Year 7 have thrown themselves into secondary school life and have fully embodied what it means to be MECE students.

One of the stand-out moments to mention is the way in which the year group conducted themselves during the House Music competition. They were an engaged and supportive audience, not to mention the fabulous performances from some of the year group.

Year 7 have been on a significant journey this academic year and have risen to every challenge. Dropping into lessons and witnessing their genuine love of learning has been heartening. The progress they have made both inside and outside of the classroom has been fantastic.

I look forward to watching this cohort progress throughout secondary school and envisage an exciting future ahead. I have absolutely loved being their Head of Year and wish them the very best for their transition into year 8.

Miss Cheeseman
Head of Year 7



What a year it has been! cheer on everyone Well done to year 8 for regardless of their finishing the year strong. houses, shows how It has been a pleasure much the year group seeing year 8 develop embodies to the core through the year and all values of MECE. the highs that they have achieved throughout it.

Most recently in the summer term, the Year 8 Tech Enterprise Day, designing new eco-friendly ideas to solve social issues was a real highlight. I was taken aback by the creativity of all teams and the understanding of real-world issues and how these could be solved. Back in June the year 8s had a great session with local charity REACH, who work with a number of local Reading schools. They dealt with some heavy topics such as crime, punishment and justice. All the students got involved and were complimented on their impeccable behaviour! More recently year 8 were particularly successful you on Sports day. Seeing the communities of year 8

A special thank you goes out to those year 8s who helped with tours during our open mornings and those who helped with the year 6 transition days. These wonderful students left a lasting impression on all they interacted with and made the school and themselves proud. I couldn't ask for better ambassadors for the school. I have had a fantastic year as Head of Year and watching how much all the students have grown from September. I am grateful that I will continue this Journey with the group into year 9. Have a wonderful summer and a well-deserved rest!

Mr Mount
Head of Year 8



Another successful term for year 9, who have completed their Options taster sessions. Here are some examples of the very positive feedback: "Year 9 really stepped up to the plate and were on the whole fantastic in History! I was really impressed with their engagement in the sessions. It has really made me look forward to GCSE History!" "GCSE Drama students were great! We talked about how to work as an ensemble, the importance of being able to build trust to allow each other to take creative risks. Next, we applied our performance skills to a piece of Berkoff's Total Theatre. Mr Harte was very impressed with the quality of rehearsal and the quality of performance." "Year 9 Geographers made a great impression with their thinking skills around disasters and the impact and responses to last year's Turkey/Syria Earthquake. There were some thoughtful insights from 'reading photos' and they tried their first GCSE questions." "A

great start from the GCSE French group. They familiarised themselves with the new GCSE and then had a go at some GCSE-style questions. I was really impressed by their resilient approach and willingness to speak French in front of their peers. It left a great first impression. Well done!" Students took part in a skills practical involving chisels and making a small product. I was impressed with their enthusiasm and effort to complete the task and am looking forward to seeing them in Year 10. Well done." In addition to these sessions, some students had the opportunity to visit the Museum of English Rural Life during the last week of term, and many others were instrumental in helping to make the Y6 transition days a success. Well done to all involved! I have now completed my handover for year 9 going into year 10 with Miss Cheeseman and am very optimistic about their progress and outcomes over the next two years. I will miss being their Head of Year and wish them all the best for the future! With best wishes for a restful summer break .

Ms Biddiss

Head of Year 9



As my final term as KS4 Head of Year draws to a close, it was time to celebrate year 11's achievements and to mark the end of their time at MECE and the completion of their GCSEs! Prom was a resounding success, the sun shone, and the unexpected hitch of a minor power cut (quickly resolved) was the only thing to deal with on the night! Year 11 were dressed to impress - which they truly did, and Gabi P & George Y were crowned Prom Queen & King - voted for by their peers and staff. The transport arrangements were the best yet, and my personal favourite - an arrival by ambulance, with sirens going! We look forward to seeing many of them on Results Day and wish them all well for their future endeavours. We can't wait to hear of their achievements and thank you for the instrumental part you have played in supporting them, and us! Year 10 have stepped up to being top of the school in an impressive manner. Their PPE exam results were overall very

pleasing and have put most students in an excellent position as we head into year 11. The results have also flagged students that might need some extra support and interventions to achieve their goals. The standards have been exceptionally high in the applications for Student Leaderships, both in the written applications and presentations to their peers. It is going to be a very tough decision to appoint from such a strong field, but we are all looking forward to seeing the Head Students and Wellbeing Ambassadors represent the school and be the drive for change and supporting student voice. I wish you all a restful and happy summer holidays.

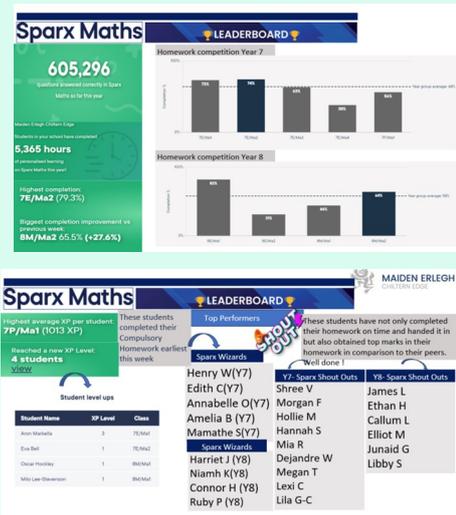
Mrs Ashley

Head of Year 10 & 11

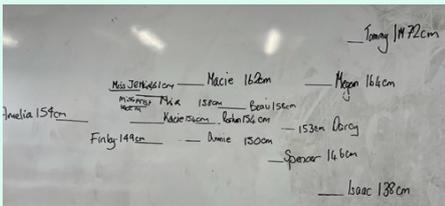


MATHS

Our strong focus on Sparx maths in year 7 & 8 has been rewarded. We are pleased to announce our winners on the leader board. Well done to all those students who put in so much effort each week!



Year 7 students have been studying shapes and area. This area of the curriculum develops a fundamental part of mathematical thought and students have been learning to understand spatial relationships and properties. We have measured year 7s and used their live data in our calculations. We also went to the quad and measured the length, depth and height of objects to calculate their area



and volumes. This also enabled us to evaluate which units of measure to use when estimating.

In year 8, students delved into the fascinating world of circle geometry. Circle theorems involve various key principles such as the angle at the centre being twice the angle at the



circumference. Understanding these theorems allows the students to solve

complex geometric problems. Students have also immersed themselves in the world of vectors - quantities defined by magnitude and direction. Although complex the students have been very engaged in this subject. Year 9 have been studying transformations. This subject brings geometry to life by allowing students to see how shapes can move and change within a coordinate plane. Such transformations include reflections, rotations, enlargements and translations. They have also investigated shapes and polygons, working on proofs and how to calculate the size of the internal and external angles of regular polygons. In Year 10 students have sharpened their focus on GCSEs, delving into complex topics like trigonometry and transformations. They have mastered trigonometry whilst calculating angles and lengths in triangles, as well as applying geometric transformations such as translations, rotations, reflections, and enlargements, building a solid foundation for their exams and future studies.

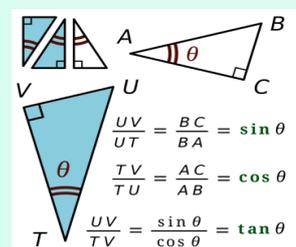
Polygon	Figure	Number of Sides
Triangle		3
Quadrilateral		4
Pentagon		5
Hexagon		6
Heptagon		7
Octagon		8
Nonagon		9



WELCOME FROM MRS GOPAL



I am excited to take the role of head of Maths at MECE from September. I completed my BSc and MSc degrees in India. I got my PGCE degree from University of Reading and became a part of MECE family since July 2020. As the Head of Maths, we will be responsible for monitoring all students' academic progress in Maths, fostering high expectations and accomplishment, and ensuring that teaching and learning remain of the highest quality. I have two main rules that are very important to me. First is that every student at MECE shows good manners and respect to all, and second that they needs to try their very best everyday. MECE Maths team have an excellent group of staff members who will dedicate themselves everyday for the development of young pupils. Along with the puzzle pirates club, there will be a Vedic Maths club that is open to all students in September, Also, we are planning some exciting trips for next year !



ENGLISH

The English Department at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge has had an exciting and productive term. Each year group has been engaged in stimulating literary studies, developing their reading, writing and analytical skills.

The department is thrilled to welcome Miss Thomas, who will be joining us as the new Head of Department. Miss Thomas brings a wealth of experience and a passion for English literature and language that is sure to inspire both students and staff. Her innovative approach to teaching and commitment to academic excellence will undoubtedly lead the department to new heights. We look forward to the fresh perspectives, enthusiasm and presence she will bring to the team.

Year 7 students have been delving into creative writing and non-fiction. This term, they focused on Language Paper 1, laying the groundwork for their future English GCSE. The emphasis has been on honing inferring, writing, and comprehension skills. The students have shown tremendous growth and enthusiasm, participating in various enrichment opportunities and consistently impressing their teachers with their dedication and progress. We look forward to seeing their continued success as they move into Year 8. **The Year 8** cohort has been finishing their study of the play "Blood Brothers" and exploring various non-fiction texts. They have engaged deeply with the themes, characters, and social context of "Blood Brothers," developing their analytical and interpretative skills. Alongside this, their work with non-fiction has improved their ability to comprehend and critique a range

of real-world texts, enhancing their overall literacy and critical thinking abilities. **Year 9** students have embarked on their GCSE journey with a strong start in studying the play "An Inspector Calls". Their engagement with the text has been commendable, showing maturity and enthusiasm as they analyse the play's themes, characters, and societal implications. They have also started their GCSE Poetry unit, demonstrating a great deal of focus and drive. The recent Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) revealed impressive results, highlighting the hard work and progress of the students this term.



year 10 students have been delving into "An Inspector Calls". They have been deeply engaged in reading, annotating, and analysing the play. This detailed study has prepared them well for their upcoming GCSE exams. Year 10 also completed their PPEs this term, with many students achieving outstanding results. The department is extremely proud of their efforts and looks forward to seeing them continue to excel in their studies next year. poetry recitation competitions, providing a platform to showcase their talents and hard work.



WELCOME FROM MRS THOMAS, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT



The last couple of weeks I have been settling into MECE and starting to learn the student's names and how to find my way around school! I have been participating in several lessons and am beginning to explore how to refine the curriculum and help every student achieve their best, developing key skills for learning and for life. In KS3 we will be starting every term studying a novel, paying attention to character, setting and theme. This will equip our KS3 students with the basic language skills to excel when they move into KS4.

In KS4 the students will be retaining the same texts and the AQA exam board, however there will be more focus on learning objectives and outcomes for every student, regardless of ability or barriers to learning. We will be running extra-curricular trips to see how playwrights meant for their plays to be enjoyed, such as Macbeth and Blood Brothers. Finally, there will be an emphasis on transferable skills so the students are able to see how their studies will benefit them in later life and the world of work, for example with speaking and listening tasks.

ENGLISH

Extra-curricular Activities This term, the English Department has successfully relaunched several extra-curricular activities aimed at enriching students' experiences beyond the classroom. **The Debate Society** and **The Literary Film Club** have both been met with enthusiasm and regular participation.

The Debate Society: The Debate Society offers students the opportunity to develop their public speaking, critical thinking, and argumentation skills. Members meet weekly to discuss and debate a variety of topics, ranging from current events to philosophical questions. This activity not only enhances their rhetorical skills but also encourages them to engage with complex issues in a thoughtful and articulate manner. Special commendations go to Elliot for his invaluable help in running the club, Matthew for his compelling speeches and coining the catchphrase "think about that," Konstantinos for his unwavering effort, and Murray for his outside-the-box thinking. We also appreciate our regular Year 7 participants: Lily, Lucy, Olivia, and Vinnie, whose enthusiasm and contributions have been remarkable.

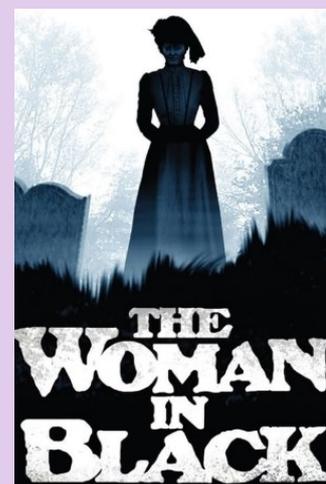
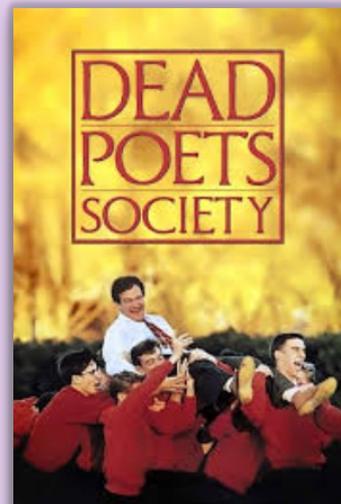


The Literary Film Club: The Literary Film Club provides a platform for students to explore the intersection of literature and cinema. Each month, the club



selects a film adaptation of a literary work to watch and discuss. This allows students to analyse the differences and similarities between the mediums, deepening their understanding of narrative techniques and thematic exploration.

Poetry By Heart: We are excited to announce the launch of a new club called Poetry By Heart. This club is dedicated to the appreciation and recitation of poetry. Students will have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of poems, from classic to contemporary, and will be encouraged to memorise and perform their chosen pieces. Poetry By Heart aims to build confidence in public speaking, enhance interpretative skills, and foster a deeper love for poetry. Members will also have the chance to participate in local and national poetry recitation competitions, providing a platform to showcase their talents and hard work.



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

Introducing our new Head of Year

► Kellie Jackson



We would like to welcome Kellie Jackson, as our new Head of Year.

Kellie, who joins us in September has previously worked for Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge as an English Teacher and Head of Chiltern House, before adventuring to another local school as Head of Year and Head of Media Studies.

Kellie has a degree in Media Studies from the University of Portsmouth and completed her PGCE at Reading University. She has recently completed the NPQLBC and previously studied for her Masters in Media, Communication and Culture at Roehampton University. Kellie is extremely excited to rejoin the Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge community and to push our students to be the best version of themselves.

MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

SCIENCE



Students have been working exceptionally hard in Science this term. We have been pleased to see so much progress and enthusiasm from students across all year groups. Following year 11 departing, Mrs Kirby and I were able to take on more of the classes that had had cover teachers. Although we recognise it has been difficult for many of the students, we were pleased to see the resilience of many of the students in the most affected classes. I also wish to thank Mrs Gopal, Mr Spicer, Ms Bullivant and Ms Constantinescu who have supported the science department by taking many lessons throughout the year. **Year 7** have been studying Ecology, Forces and Atoms & the Periodic table. Students were all able to carry out an investigation into conservation of mass using marble chips and hydrochloric acid. Year 7 have developed their practical skills throughout the year and will be able to complete more complex investigations going forward into Year 8. **Year 8** have been looking at Materials & the Earth. They have investigated the different properties of rocks and some students used chocolate to model the rock cycle. We were also able to run the bronze crest awards with some students in year 8. The crest award is an award run through the British Science Association that inspires young people to think like

scientists and engineers. Students in year 8 planned and carried out an investigation into biscuits. Some groups produced outstanding work, and the best ones were put forward to receive the award. Students in **year 9** have been studying Forces and the Earth's atmosphere & resources. All students in year 9 have recently sat their first Science PPE. It was great to see some students attend the science intervention sessions and take responsibility for their revision and learning. Many students achieved highly and demonstrated the progress they had made this year. We hope that year 9 will continue to work hard and stay motivated as they continue their science GCSE course in year 10. **Year 10** have been studying Ecology and the Earth's atmosphere & resources. Some students have been attending the science intervention sessions following on from the year 10 PPEs. We hope to see more students attending this session regularly next year when they are in year 11. **Year 11**, We said our goodbyes to year 11 this term. We are very proud of all the hard work they put in and wish them all their best in their GCSE results and the future.

Stem club have been working hard on the Crest award. We have had a range of different projects submitted, such as 'Does colour affect taste of fizzy drinks?', 'What crisps are the crispiest?' and 'How do different liquids affect plant cells?' Stem club also attended the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. This is the UK's biggest STEM event for young people and had lots of hands-on activities. Students came home with lots of free merchandise and a greater understanding of STEM careers.



Cheers to 30 Years!

I want to acknowledge that Mrs Bosley, our lab technician, is retiring after working at Chiltern Edge for over 30 years. Mrs Bosley has a wealth of knowledge and has been an asset to the department. We wish her all the best on her retirement!



Goodbye From Mrs Sarpong

Lastly, this has been my last term at Chiltern Edge as Head of Science. I am immensely proud of all the students and wish them all the best going forward.



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

Introducing our new
Teacher of Science

► Serife Mert



We would like to welcome Serife (Sherry) Mert, as our new Teacher of Science.

Sherry, who joins us in September is from Cyprus and has a degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Reading. Straight after graduating, she started her teacher training with TeachFirst. Sherry completed her 2 year teacher training at Brakenhale School, where she taught Science to KS3/4 students. She completed her PGCE with the Sheffield Hallam University.

Sherry is very excited to be a part of Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge, meet her colleagues and inspire students in STEM!



PE

On Friday 28 June, Mr Caldwell (Head of PE) and Mrs Allen (Inclusion), took a small group of wonderful year 7 students to 'The Olympics' at Marlborough School in Woodstock. MECE students joined children from other schools to enjoy a range of sporting activities including archery, boccia (boules), quidditch, tag rugby, cricket and a cycling obstacle course. All our students had a wonderful time and joined in with every activity with true sporting spirit. Mrs Allen particularly commented on how impeccably behaved they all were and what truly wonderful ambassadors they are for our school. Well done to all!!

At MECE we have some students with exceptional sporting talents, one of those is undoubtedly Jenson in year 7. Jenson has been competing in kart racing since the age of 6. Over the years, he has won National and Club championships including being the Camberley Kart Club 2023 Champion (he also won it in 2021), Forest Edge Club 2023 Champion, and in 2022, the BKC National Champion and National Super One Vice Champion. He has also won winter series championships, special plate races and prestigious club memorial trophies to name but a few! He also currently holds the Honda Cadet lap record at Camberley. He has now moved into Junior Rotax where he is one of the youngest drivers (racing drivers up to 16 years of age) with his kart pulling around 80mph down the straights. He has to travel all over the country for his racing including weekends

in Scotland, the Lake District and down to Devon.

This term we have welcomed Cricket Performance to our KS3 curriculum PE lessons. They have been teaching students the fundamentals of cricket, leading fun and engaging games for students based on cricket skills. We hope to have a cricket tournament in September with our local secondary schools. Seven year 8 girls, led by Jorgia P (y9) supported Peppard Primary schools inter school rounders tournament. The girls were fantastic ambassadors for the school and enjoyed umpiring and cheering on the primary school students. The feedback from staff at Peppard was excellent and reflected the maturity and hard work the girls showed during the day. Thank you to Daisy, Maisie, Eleanor, Saanvi, Sadie, Dulcie and Deanna for umpiring. This term has seen our first glimpse into a MECE rowing team. 24 students have been learning to row on the Thames, thanks to the support from Henley Rowing Club. This has been a wonderful experience for all involved and we already have plans in place for September to continue this partnership. We look forward to competing in the Indoor school championships, and who knows, maybe a regatta next summer! A huge thank you to Mrs King on reception who has taken the students on Monday and Wednesday. Looking forward to next year Wallingford Archery club will be starting an Archery club on Wednesday afternoons. This will cost £60 for a 12-week

block of lessons, more information to follow soon. We are also welcoming a street dance and acrobatics group to our extra-curricular programme. We intend to build our local club relations with Sonning Common Table Tennis club, Abbey rugby for girls and boys and Henley Rowing. If you have an interest in starting a new extra-curricular club we would love to hear from you, the more opportunities we can offer to students the better! We will also be developing our Sports Leaders programme next year, with opportunities to volunteer for lunch and after school clubs, coach school team and support the local primary school tournaments. Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has participated in a lunchtime or after school club, represented the school in such a brilliant way or been one of the many Sports Leaders who have supported our clubs/tournaments or local primary school events. We can't wait to kick off next year with even more success, clubs and opportunities!



PE

MECE Olympic Sports Festival and MECE Euros

This term has been the launch of our MECE Olympic Sports festival, which has given our students an opportunity to get involved, challenge, try new sports and introduce friends to a sport.

We also held the interhouse MECE Euros, which kicked off with a bang. A huge number of students joined in and the PE team were so impressed. Each tutor group pulled a team from the sweepstake and played matches as that team, this ran alongside the Euros, something the students were really excited about! Spain won the Euros and with 7A representing them they were also MECE's joint winning team this year, along with 8C representing Croatia!

Students have also had the opportunity to try out many different sorts of sports this term, many of which were new to them. The PE team have been putting on some fabulous events running across lunchtimes to showcase the start of the Olympics. Sports have included archery, breakdance, gymnastics, touch rugby, golf, trampolining, indoor hockey, indoor rowing, table tennis, athletics/field heats and more. Students were given a MECE passport to gain house points for the events they took part in. The winning house of our MECE Olympic Sports festival?

Sports Day

The Sports Day really showed all the students and the MECE community in the best possible way! After a morning of field events, the afternoon saw the traditional track finals and some incredible team and individual performances. Special mention to the top students in each year group who were awarded Sports Awards:

Year 7 Georgina and Roshan

Year 8 Thomas D and Sadie S

Year 9 Keandre, Shantae and Imogen

Year 10 Byron and Aleka

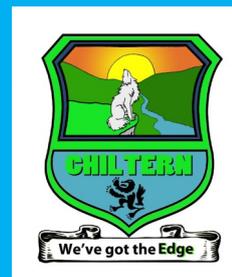
In a new venture for MECE, this year's sports day included an enterprise event run by year 10. The sun shone on us as houses took part in a range of activities from skittles, to tug of war, a raffle and even golf - the atmosphere was added to by the year 9 and year 7 bands who played and the teachers who bravely put themselves forward to be sponged. Our ex-students were great ambassadors and a huge help.

There were several stalls of cakes and CESA sold drinks and ice-cream raising over £300. We are all so proud of the work which year 10 put into the event and the professional way they ran their stalls. They did an incredible job and leading the sports festival, putting in a huge amount of effort to make it a successful, inclusive afternoon.

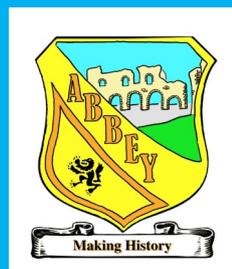
The finale was a great way to finish and wonderful to see so many participants and the huge support from the Houses.

The overall results were:

1st Chiltern



2nd Abbey



3rd Peppard



4th Thames



HUMANITIES

GEOGRAPHY

Year 7 have continued to develop their geographical knowledge and curiosity. The students have been exploring global development, analysing different ways we classify the world, reasons for disparities and strategies used to reduce the development gap. More recently, year 7 have been studying a wide range of geographical issues from around the world, including water stress in Las Vegas and remote living on the Island of Anuta. **Year 8** have moved onto studying migration patterns across the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Students have investigated the different causes of migration to Europe, focusing on Syria and Eritrea. The students followed this up with an in-depth analysis of migrant experiences travelling across the continent and a review of current migration policy in the UK. **In year 9** the group have been grappling with the complexities and delicate landscape of the Middle East. Through this contemporary topic, the students have been exploring the climate, demography and conflict in the region. It has been great to see the students engage with current global issues and bring their own knowledge of current affairs to the classroom. More recently, Year 9 have been preparing for GCSE through studying urban geography. The enquiry into urbanisation, mega-cities and slums has enabled the students to develop their knowledge and skills ready for a positive start in September. **The year 10** students have had time to reflect on their PPE results and their performance in the exam. I have been really impressed with the mature and engaged approach towards revision and the feedback provided. I hope the students are now clear on their next steps for improvement going forward. Year 10 have continued to develop their knowledge and skills in the GCSE classroom. The course content now moves towards 'hazards' with the current focus on climate change. I have been particularly impressed with the comparison of hazard events in countries of contrasting wealth. As part of their study for Paper 3: Geographical Applications, students must complete their own fieldwork. We had a very successful day out to sunny Milford-on-Sea. The data collection was very successful, and all involved thoroughly enjoyed the day out exploring the coastline!

Mr Sheridan, Head of Geography

Year 10 Field Trip to Milford-on-Sea



HUMANITIES

HISTORY & RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

**General Election**

We have been having a lot of fun over the past few weeks preparing for our MECE Mock Election, ran by Team HUMS. By now you will know the results of the national general election and the results of the MECE mock election caught the mood of the nation with a Labour landslide here too! 170 votes overall were cast, and the results were as follows: 1st Labour - 97, 2nd Liberal Democrats - 39, 3rd Green Party - 19, 4th Conservatives - 15. All students were given the opportunity to learn about the different political parties and their beliefs as well as a being given a more general understanding of how our democracy works. All the students who volunteered to take part for the election were fantastic and we were particularly impressed with the candidates. Samuel, Isaias, and Henry took part in the live hustings and Emma hosted and asked probing questions. A special mention goes to Lucy, Lilly and Olivia who put a lot of work into the campaign.

Year 5 Philosophers

Mrs Smith had the pleasure of introducing some of our Sonning Common Primary School visitors to the world of philosophy! They spent some time asking the big questions in life, such as 'why are we here?' 'How do we know we exist?' 'What is our purpose?' All the students engaged so well in the session and really did themselves proud! Mrs Smith is very excited for the new cohort of philosophers who will be joining us in the future here at MECE.

GCSE History Tasters

Here in the History department, we are very proud to be running an extra class for GCSE History next year due to the high number of students who have chosen our subject. Recently we had our GCSE taster sessions where students in year 9 were introduced to the world of GCSEs. In History, we delved into the world of Elizabethan England and considered how her early life would have affected her reign as Queen of England. Both Mrs Smith and Mr Mount were so pleased with how the students engaged in the session and we look forward to teaching our new year 10s in September!



art Food

& DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

ADT have produced their own document showcasing all the amazing work the student have completed this year. Please click [HERE](#) to have a look what hey have been up too.

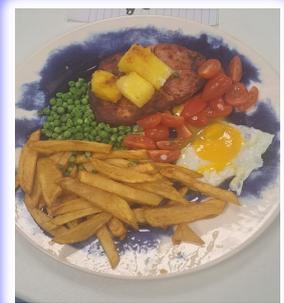
British Bake Off

Year 8 Classes

Overall Winners
Amy & Libby
Nov 2023



Overall Winners
Brooke & Renai
June 2024



PERFORMING ARTS



@MECE_PA

DRAMA

This term, **year 7s** have been introduced to the theatrical style of Physical Theatre. This is a performance style where the use of movement and a performer's physicality are the main form of expression and communication with the audience. It has been great to see year 7 students grasp some more abstract concepts! After Easter, **year 8** students did some script work on Shakespeare's murderous *Macbeth*. In this unit, we focused on how to communicate character through Shakespearean language and how to create mood and atmosphere using some technical elements of



theatre including lighting, sound and the use of a smoke machine. The smoke machine was also responsible for accidentally setting off the fire alarm. Mr Harte might use less of this in the future! More recently, students have been exploring a range of materials from Amnesty International as a starting point to create moving and thoughtful pieces of drama while developing their social and historical knowledge of a range of issues around human rights. In **year 9** students have been learning about the art of Stage Combat. With safety being a key element of this crucial element of many stories told on stage, on TV and in film, students have been learning the skills and techniques required to create believable choreographed fight sequences. Students in the **year 10** Drama GCSE class have now completed the first of their Non-Examined Assessments (NEA1 – Devising Drama) which is worth 30% of their final grade. As part of their work, students have created some highly thoughtful and developed performances, using a range of techniques to communicate meaning to their audience.

Mr Harte
Head of Performing Arts



MUSIC



The highlight of the term in music has undoubtedly been the house music competition! In the lead up to the final students prepared in their music lessons and at lunchtime. The semi-finals followed during which many wonderful performances were shown. The quality of so many of the performances was excellent this year. So much so that Mrs Brown ended up including 15 acts in the final, instead of the planned 12 as there was so much talent demonstrated! For the final itself, in front of an enthralled audience of the entirety of Year 7, all the acts performed to a high quality standard. The voting was very close at the top, but the overall winner was Aron (Peppard, 7C) for his phenomenal piano piece, with Louis (Chiltern, 7C) in second place and Olivia (Thames, 7B) in third place. It was a terrific afternoon and a reminder of all the hard working and talented students that we are lucky to have at MECE. We're already looking forward to next year's competition! Overall house totals are as follows: Chiltern 244, Thames 208, Peppard 179 & Abbey 177. In addition to this, there have been many other successful and enjoyable activities. The topics covered in class this term have included Pentatonic music for year 7, film music with year 8 and remixes of Classical pieces for year 9. Music club has continued to be a very well attended session and we hope to continue growing the numbers for choir next year. We are very much excited about GCSE Music being studied again from September.

Becki Brown
Music Teacher

CAREERS AT MECE

This term has seen a number of Careers Education opportunities. Careers lessons continued in some PD year groups. In addition, we were lucky enough to have a tech-related enterprise workshop for year 8 and an eco-buildings workshop for year 7. Students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in their project and put themselves in the shoes of the employees presenting. As we have come to expect, the facilitators had nothing but praise for the hard work and participation of all groups.

Trip to the Museum of English Rural Life and Reading University

A group of year 8 and 9 HAP students made their own way to the MERL in central Reading this week to do a self-guided tour of the museum. They then had to choose an area of interest linked to sustainability and present their findings from the museum back to the rest of the group. The students were incredibly impressive and showed how much they had taken from the museum. We then walked up to the main University Campus there we stopped for lunch before a tour of the facilities. We finished the day with a talk from Professor Paddy Bullard about life at University and the options available. The students asked some really impressive questions and were an asset to themselves and the school.

Mrs Judy Hills

Assistant Headteacher



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

We are thrilled to announce the unprecedented success of this year's Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award program. With almost double the number of participants compared to last year, the enthusiasm and dedication of our students has been truly inspiring! To achieve the Bronze DofE Award, students must complete three sections: Skills, Volunteering and Physical. Each section requires a commitment of one hour per week for three months, with one section extended to six months. This structure ensures a well-rounded development, fostering personal growth and community involvement. Our students engaged in a variety of skill-building activities. Some learned how to care for animals, while others developed their artistic talents in drawing. The diversity in chosen skills highlights the program's flexibility and the students' eagerness to explore new interests. The Volunteering section saw students making significant contributions to their communities. One dedicated participant took on the responsibility of caring for a 94-year-old neighbour. Others worked with children or participated in environmental clean-ups through litter picking. The variety of volunteer activities demonstrated the students' commitment to making a positive impact. For the Physical section, students engaged in a range of activities, including swimming, cycling, and football. This not only promoted physical fitness but also prepared them for the endurance required during the expedition. The final and perhaps most challenging aspect of the Bronze Award is the expedition. Our students completed a one-night camping trip and two days of walking, covering a minimum of six

hours each day. The practice expedition at Cray's Pond, in partnership with Ridgeline Adventures, focused on strengthening map reading and orienteering skills. Without the use of phones, students navigated through checkpoints using maps and compasses, learning essential outdoor survival skills. Mrs Chopra, worked with the students on practical skills such as using a Trangia stove for cooking, planning nutritious menus, and learning first aid. Their preparations were evident during the practice expedition, where they displayed excellent behaviour, teamwork, and a refreshing disinterest in their phones. Instead, they engaged in games and social activities, fostering camaraderie. This past weekend marked the final expedition. With bags packed to a quarter of their body weight and hats on, the students set off from the Warburg Nature Reserve. Despite some getting lost and experiencing the physical demands of the journey, they supported each other and maintained high spirits. All groups successfully reached Pheasants Hill, where they pitched tents and cooked their meals together. The next day, they continued their trek towards Hambleton carpark in Henley. The students managed their time well, took necessary breaks, and even entertained each other by naming wildlife and sticks. The sight of the last team running towards their waiting parents and staff at the finish line was a heartwarming conclusion to their journey. I am proud to announce that all teams qualified for the Bronze Award. The success of the DofE program at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and supporters. I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr Caldwell,

Ms. Biddiss, Ms Kirby and Ms Priest for their invaluable support during the expeditions. Their commitment made it possible for our students to achieve their goals. A special thank you to Ridgeline Adventures for their expertise and guidance, and to the parents for their unwavering support and involvement. Lastly, I want to thank the students for their cooperation and determination. Though I did not qualify for the Bronze Award myself, I have learned so much from this journey as a teacher running the program. The DofE Bronze Award program has been a remarkable success at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. Through developing new skills, engaging in physical activities, and volunteering, our students have grown in confidence, resilience, and social responsibility. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence in the years to come.



*Please see photos
of our final
expedition
on the next page*





“Opportunity, diversity and success for all”

Term Dates 2024/2025

Autumn Term

04 September - Year 7 & 11 only

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

Monday 02 June 2025

Letters for Parents

www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk/letters-for-parents/

Click here to view recent communications



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Safeguarding Concern over the summer?

If you have a safeguarding concern for a student you can contact: mecedsl@maidenerleghtrust.org This account will be monitored regularly over the summer holidays.

Alternatively you can contact Brighter Futures for Children's Single Point of Access on 01189373641

Oxfordshire MASH on 0345 050 7666, <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/report-concerns-about-a-child/#:~:text=It%20is%20important%20that%20you,email%20cspoa%40brighterfuturesforchildren.org>

If feel the person is at immediate harm please contact the Police on 999.

