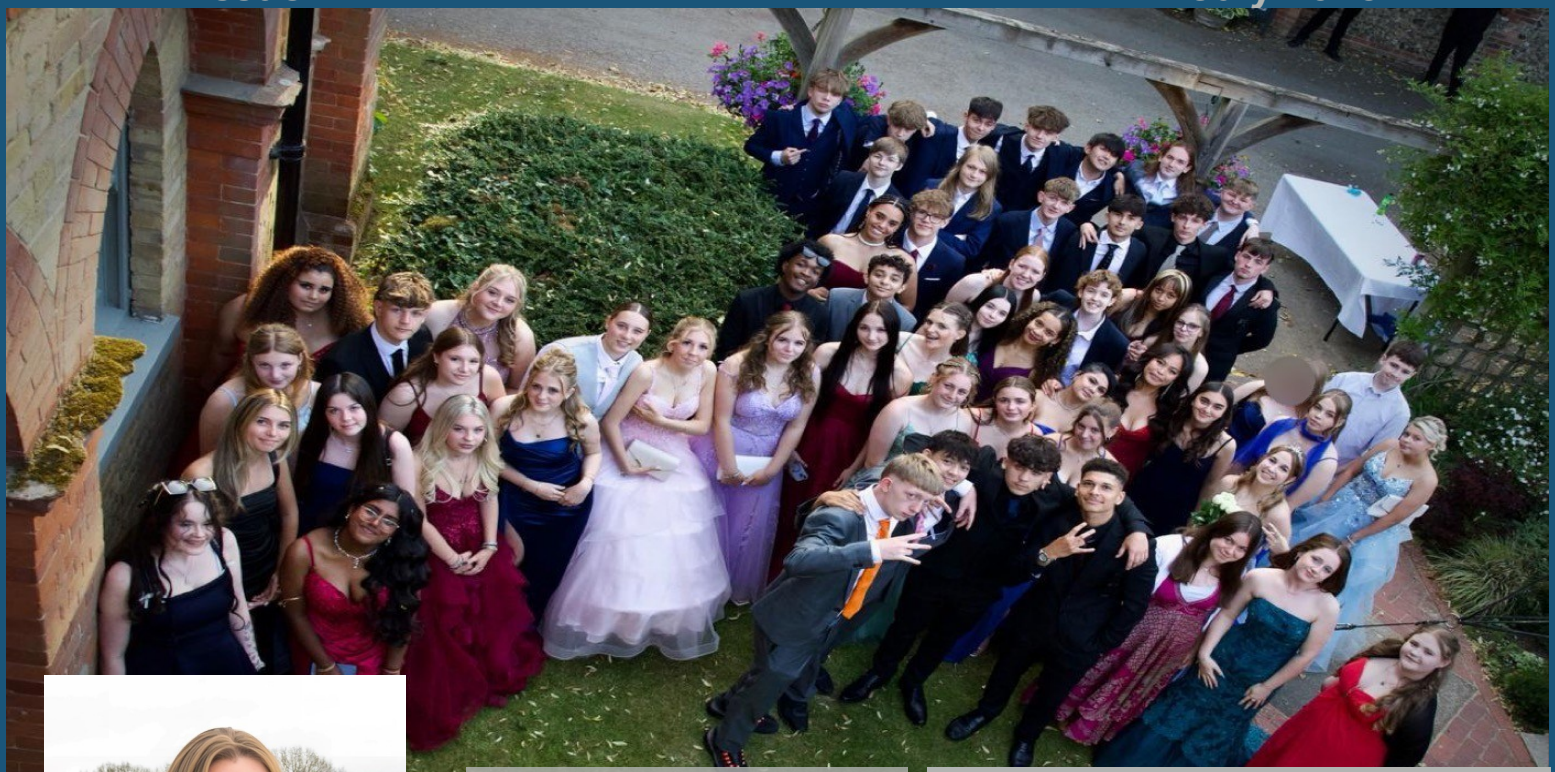
MECEmatters

Issue 27 July 2025



What a wonderful Summer Term we have had.

In the classroom there has been a sharp focus on securing the MECEBasics – the simplest of expectations for students to ensure they are in the position to make the most progress towards their goals. These include focus on punctuality, being prepared (equipment), engagement with homework and no opting out within the lesson itself. Year 7 have undertaken Common Assessments in English, maths and Science (in line with their peers across the Trust), Year 9 have sat their first PPEs in the main exam suite, Y10 a full set of PPEs and Y11 of course their GCSEs. Further to this Y10 have undertaken Work Shadow and a range of workshops to help home in on Post16 pathways and Year 9 have completed the Get Set for Y10 project including work on Study skills, introductions to GCSE courses and set goals for next year.

Easter Ski and Iceland trips feel like a distant memory given the huge number of other things that have taken place in the last 16 weeks. Year 7 have been out to the beach (Geographical Landforms), Year 8 to Hampton Court (Tudor life) & many of Year 9 have completed Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. This is on top of the regular sports fixtures and other afterschool clubs that run week in week out at MECE. We have also encompassed a number of Community events including the MECE Spring Clean, the Sonning Common Village Day and the Primary School fete, not to forget involvement in a number of the Cross-Trust events that have taken place across the term. When reflecting back at the wide range of opportunities I do so with pride and gratitude. I will forever be thankful to staff who give up their time (and commit a huge amount of energy) in planning and running trips and activities – all this on top of their day-to-day commitments in the classroom.

The end of the summer term affords us the opportunity to reflect on the year gone – when I think about our community, I am so proud to have been given the opportunity to lead this wonderful school and feel inspired each and every day to ensure we create the environment to help students achieve their potential and so much more. Wishing you all a very lovely and relaxing Summer break.

Miss Bliss

Hampton Court Palace — June 2025

Ski Trip — April 2025

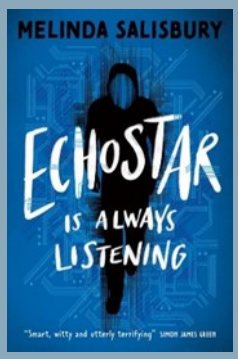
Iceland — April 2025

Lulworth Cove - July 2025

English

As the academic year draws to a close, it's been a busy and enriching term across all year groups in the English department.

Year 7 have been diving into the world of **Gothic fiction**, exploring eerie settings, unsettling characters and suspenseful narratives. From haunted castles to psychological thrillers, students have shown great creativity and flair in both their reading and their own writing. Their ability to craft tension and atmosphere has been particularly impressive.
They have also completed a Trust-wide English assessment which has allowed us to plan for teaching next year and showed us how well the students have engaged with their learning.
Congratulations to Ruby K and Paula C who have achieved Star Sparx Pupil status for their consistent excellent reading.
This term saw the start of a new Y7 reading group led by Miss Roberts. The group have been reading *Echostar Is Always Listening* by Melinda Salisbury while working on their fluency and comprehension skills. We know that reading fluently and understanding what they read helps students learn better in all subjects and become more confident readers. This group is just one way in which we are supporting that vital reading development at MECE.



Year 8 wrapped up their study of *Blood Brothers* earlier this term and have since embarked on a new adventure into **travel writing**. They've enjoyed taking imaginative journeys across the globe through language, honing their descriptive writing skills and learning how to convey personal perspective and cultural insight. The shift in focus has allowed them to experiment with voice and tone, and many have produced powerful, reflective pieces of non-fiction.
Congratulations to Mamathe Subramaniam and Ellie Densham who have achieved Star Sparx Pupil status for their consistent excellent reading.

Year 9 have begun their first steps into GCSE-style work by tackling **English Language Paper 1**. Through analysing a range of challenging fiction extracts and practising their own narrative writing, students have developed a sharper understanding of structure, tone and technique. Their growing confidence with exam skills bodes well for the year ahead.
They have sat a mini PPE to allow them to experience sitting their GCSEs first hand and some excellent papers have been completed.

Year 10 have also been working intensively on **Language Paper 1**, revisiting key concepts and building towards a more mature and precise style of writing. Their progress in analysis, particularly around language and structure, has been clear – and their narrative and descriptive writing is beginning to show real flair and control.
They sat an extra PPE for English language, experiencing the new AQA English Language format with more concise questions, and have achieved some excellent results.

Year 11, having completed their GCSEs, have now officially left us – and we couldn't be prouder of the dedication and determination they have shown. Their commitment throughout the exam season was exemplary. We wish them every success in the next stage of their journey and look forward to celebrating their achievements in the summer.

Our **Sparx Reader** programme has continued to thrive, with **Years 7 and 8** leading the way in building stronger reading habits. We are delighted to have now rolled out the programme to **Years 9 and 10** as well, further embedding a culture of reading across the school. Students are developing greater fluency, comprehension and stamina – and their engagement has been outstanding.

Maths

A fantastic summer term in maths so far. Year 11s have successfully completed their GCSE's and are now on their way to new pastures.
Whilst some year 10s have been learning to construct and solve simultaneous equations others have been learning index laws and bounds. So lovely to see them embracing their role as the oldest members of the school and coming along in great numbers to Tuesdays maths drop in.

The year 9 cohort were lucky enough to spend the morning with an analyst from the Bank of England. This session allowed the students to find out the functions of the Bank of England and to motivate those who are interested to look at

different careers within that sector. Many questions were asked regarding salaries, amongst other things, from our interactive and beautifully behaved audience.

Some year 9s have been learning about Pythagoras theorem and trigonometry whilst others have been delving into inequalities.

Our year 8s have been studying algebra, looking at factorising and expanding brackets whilst others have been studying data with interactive lessons outside have allowed them to collect and work with their own data.

We are delighted in the maths department to announce that for the first time two of our students gained Gold in Kangaroo for the UKMT maths challenge. Congratulations to David T and Jayden L in year 8.

Our year 7's have been using maths to do real life calculations with money showing the practical applications of the subject. They then went on to revisit the properties of multiplication and division and have deeper look at factors multiples and primes.

Drama

"…After all, drama is life with the dull bits cut out" – Hitchcock

Year 7

This term in Drama, Year 7 are going to be studying the popular Victorian performance style of Melodrama. This over-the-top genre features stock characters, evil deeds and heroic endings and was a forerunner for today's Pantomimes. Oh no it wasn't! Oh yes it was!

Year 8

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 use of a smoke machine (which only set the fire alarms off once..!) 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.

Year 9

During term 5, Year 9 watched a production called *Cookies* which tackles some very challenging topics that affect many young people across the country. This includes issues around gang culture, knife crime, and the dangers of social media/relationships online. We then used this performance to inform some of

our own performance work. In this final term of the year, Year 9 students are learning the art of stage combat! - *"I'll beat thee, but I would infect my hands."* The aim is the make the combat look real, but without any actual contact being made.

Year 10

Year 10 have been working on developing their own performance for their first component which comprised 30% of their final grade. In addition to the performance, the students also have to write a portfolio which tracks the development of their ideas and the success and impact of the techniques used in performance. This year, the Year 10 Drama students have been working really hard on this part of the course – well done!

The Small School with a Big Heart

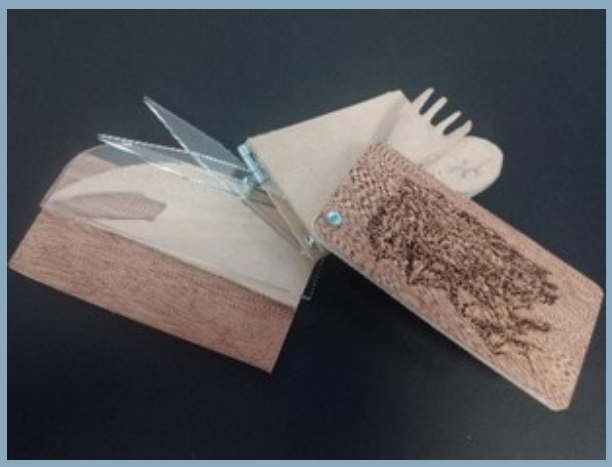
Design and Technology

2024-25 has been a busy year all the way through the age groups here at MECE.

From Year 7, were students have been learning the fundamentals of workshop practice, up to Year 11 who have been focussed on the NEA and produced independently created design project portfolios.

A big thank you to CESA who last year kindly paid for a 3D printer for Design Technology. This year it was mainly used by Year 11, but it will be integrated into the KS3 curriculum next year so more students can benefit.

Below are a small selection of makes that have occurred over the past 12 months using a wide variety of tools, skills and techniques. Enjoy the clocks, stands, copper dishes, speakers, lamps, NEA projects, architectural models and pewter castings.



House Music Competition—Summer 2025

The House Music Competition is one of the highlights of the year in Music. All the students in years 7, 8 & 9 participated in the competition. Each class had three lessons, and for some lunchtimes and outside school, to practice their piece for their class final. These took place in early June. Points were awarded per house for excellent participation in the rehearsals and to each performance in the class finals.

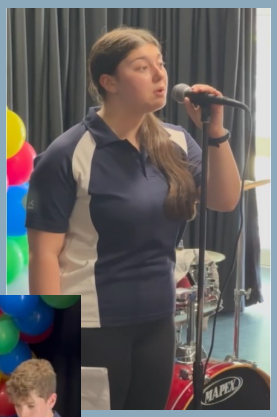
Semi-finalists were chosen and there were also three Golden Buzzers used to send the following students straight through to the final: Aron M from 8C, Edith W from 7A and Olivia F from 8B. The 46 semi-finalists were split into 3 groups and three classes had the pleasure of listening to them.

The final happened on Monday 30 June and the following students were involved: Edith, Henry, Peter, Ellie and Hayley representing Abbey House. Anushka, Ernie, Ines, Ruby and Amy representing Chiltern House. Mia, Aron and David representing Peppard House. Leo, Olivia, Konstantinos, Zaid, Elliot, Riaan and Daisy representing Thames House.

Overall, Abbey house had the most points with 448, with Thames second with 398 points and Chiltern third with 368.

Our individual top three performances were: 1st Edith (7A), 2nd Amy (9D) and 3rd Henry (8C) & Peter (8D)

The final was enjoyed by all of the students from the semi final plus our current and soon to be GCSE Music students. My thanks to everyone who took part and especially our panel of student judges (Samuel, Jorgia, Poppy -Ann and Dylan) who had very difficult decisions to make.



Careers

In May, Year 10 had a fantastically packed week of workshops, assemblies, visits and work experience during World of Work week. Students demonstrated exceptional dedication and professionalism, making the most of the opportunity to explore real-world careers and further and higher education.

Throughout the week, they actively engaged in tasks, listened to instructions and took initiative where appropriate.

The maturity and enthusiasm they displayed showed a genuine interest in learning, making the experience not only successful but also valuable for their future career paths.

Culture Day

Culture Day, organized by some of our Year 10 head student team, Imogen, Jorgia, Isias and Brooke was a vibrant and successful event that brought the school community together to celebrate diversity. Students and staff were invited to bring and share food from different cultures, creating a colourful and welcoming atmosphere. We also had music from our amazing Year 10 band Twenty Ten.

Posters were made by students from all year groups which were displayed in the hall for everyone to see.

The head students did an outstanding job coordinating the event, from planning to promotion, and ensuring everything ran smoothly.

A wide variety of dishes were brought in, offering everyone the chance to try new flavours and learn about different backgrounds. The event not only celebrated cultural heritage but also encouraged respect, inclusivity, and unity across the school.

Sports Day

Sports Day was an exciting and competitive event, with all four houses—Abbey, Chiltern, Peppard, and Thames—giving it their all in a close contest.

From track races to relay events and field competitions, students showed incredible team spirit, determination, and sportsmanship. The atmosphere was full of energy, with cheering from every corner of the field. In the end, Abbey narrowly claimed victory, earning well-deserved celebration for their efforts.

Despite the competition, the whole school came together to enjoy a fun-filled day of sport, unity, and house pride, making it a memorable highlight of the year.

Year 10

This term has marked a real turning point for Year 10, as they begin to step up as the oldest students in the school. With Year 11 having moved on, many are starting to take on more responsibility and are shaping up to be strong role models across the school.

We were really pleased with the number of thoughtful applications for the new Student Leadership Team, and those appointed have made a great start. Beyond that, it's been brilliant to see so many Year 10 students getting involved – supporting with Open Mornings, taking part in interview panels, and helping at other school events.

There's also been a noticeable shift in attitude for many – a growing maturity and a clearer understanding of what it means to be in the GCSE years. More students are showing focus, consistency, and a determination to do well.
As we come to the end of term, I'd like to take this opportunity to say how much I've enjoyed being Head of Year to this cohort – both when they joined us in Year 7, and again this year. It's been a real privilege to see their journey so far. While I won't be continuing as their Head of Year next year, I'll still be here supporting them – always in their corner and cheering them on.

Year 8

What an incredible year it's been for Year 8! From the very first day in September to these final weeks of summer term, this year group has impressed me time and time again with their commitment, character, and curiosity.
This term alone, they've thrown themselves into every opportunity. Our trip to Hampton Court Palace was a real highlight, where students represented the school brilliantly and brought their historical knowledge to life. They've also taken part in careers activities designed to spark ambition and open doors for the future – a timely and exciting way to start thinking ahead to GCSEs.

I'm especially thrilled to share the fantastic achievements of Jayden L and David T in the UKMT Junior Kangaroo competition. Both secured Gold Awards, a phenomenal accomplishment and the first time our school has earned Golds in this competition since I joined. Out of a maximum score of 135, David achieved 129 and Jayden 113 – an absolutely outstanding performance, placing them in the top 10% nationally. We are so proud of them both!

Year 8 continue to thrive with Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader, showing real dedication to developing their skills and staying consistent in their efforts. They've also represented the school at various sporting fixtures and have generously volunteered to support school tours for prospective students. Whether on the field, in lessons, or guiding others through our corridors, their kindness and maturity have stood out.
As always, their positivity and enthusiasm remain unmatched – this is a year group full of potential, warmth, and determination.
I'm beyond happy to be continuing with Year 8 into Year 9 next year. As they begin to think about their GCSE options and prepare for the next stage of their journey, I feel incredibly lucky to guide and support them. It has been an absolute privilege to be their Head of Year this year, and I can't wait to see what they achieve next.

Well done, Year 8 – you've been truly amazing.

Year 7

As the term ends, I wanted to share how grateful I am for the warm welcome I have received from both students and parents in year 7. These 6 months have flown by! In tutor time this term, we have been really focussing on preparing for a successful transition in year 8 by ensuring we are perfecting following all of our MECE basics such as punctuality, having the correct tools for learning and homework. It has been great to see the growth in positive points for this across the term! Year 7 have fully embraced all opportunities available to them this term. In June, they had an extended workshop run by a careers and enterprise organisation which encouraged them to think about themselves and their skills and to practice their decision making in some business-like scenarios.

The year group really rose to the challenge, asking lots of questions of the entrepreneurs. The students have adapted so well to the changes of this year, in particular, our trial of the new groups, staff have reported so many positives about their attitudes to learning and I am confident that this will continue into September.

Once again, thank you so much for welcoming me into the community. I hope you all

have a restful summer with some quality family time. I look forward to the students telling me what they have been up too!

Year 9

It has been an eventful term for year 9 who are now the 2nd oldest year group in the school. This term Year 9 have been given their full options timetables and know what subjects they will be studying in GCSE's and hopefully beyond. To compliment this, they received one 2 hour taster session per option subject so they could get a real feel of what is in store with them next year. The buzz that went around the school after each one of these sessions was electric with students excited about their next steps.

Year 9 also had their first experience of exams with PPE's in the main hall several weeks ago completing CORE subject exams. The entire cohort impressed with their attitude towards the exams and the willingness to get stuck into some revision during tutor time. After the final day, the external invigilators even made a point of saying how impressed they were with the conduct of the students in the exams and how surprised they were that this was their first experience too.

Overall Year 9 have been amazing this past year, they have made some amazing achievements both in and outside of school. They have grown as people and are going to do amazing moving forward into year 10. It has been a great two years with this cohort and despite not being their head of year next year, I am so excited to see where they all go and the achievements they will make along the way.

Wishing our pupils, parents, staff and governors a wonderful summer break.

MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

ART COMPETITION FARRANS CONSTRUCTION

FARRANS FARRANS

MECE are holding an art competition based on the theme of Sonning Common, such as history, wildlife etc.
Entries might include photograph, 2D art or drawing, painting or sculpture of something within this theme.

The winning piece may be displayed in Widmore Park, the new retirement village in Sonning Common being developed by Farrans

Closing date is 22nd September, please hand you entries into reception at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge
Or email entries to
meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

What's coming up?

3 Sept	RETURN TO SCHOOL—YR 7 & 11 ONLY
4 Sept	WHOLE SCHOOL RETURN
11 Sept	WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOS
30 Sept	OPEN EVENING
3 Oct	Y11 TRUST HE/FE FAYRE
21 Oct	Y11 MOCK INTERVIEWS
3-7 Nov	Y11 PPE's
20 Nov	PRESENTATION EVENING
3 Dec	Y11 PPE RESULTS
3 Dec	Y11 PARENTS EVENING

CESA

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

SATURDAY 20 SEPT

2PM-4PM

CESA

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

MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

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