



03 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

October has arrived, and Autumn is truly upon us with crisp mornings, sharp showers interspersed with periods of beautiful sunshine! So far, we have lucked out with only one day of wet weather that has impacted the students' opportunity to go outside at break/lunch and to get a bit of fresh air and burn off some energy!

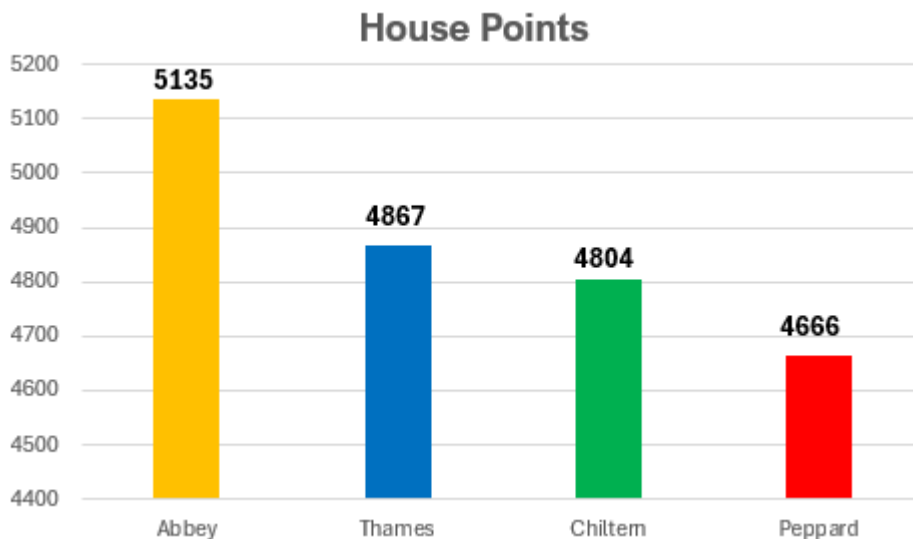
The past week has been filled with excitement and positivity including:

We were delighted on Tuesday evening to welcome so many prospective families to school for our annual **Open Evening**. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the hard work and passion of our students and staff and the vibrant learning environment here at MECE. A special thank you goes to our many current students who volunteered their time to act as ambassadors in departments and as guides – well over a quarter of the student body was back in school on Tuesday evening – their enthusiasm, knowledge and pride shone through in their interactions with families and all the feedback we have had has been quick to compliment students for this. Our school is a place where academic success and personal growth go hand in hand – and it was this that parents specifically referenced! It was also heartening to hear how many families were encouraged to visit by positive word-of-mouth recommendations from current parents and our growing social media posts which have spurred them into coming to look around for themselves - so thank you to you all for spreading the word amongst your own networks. These evenings are hugely important in our school calendar but also take a significant amount of time and energy to pull together at the start of a busy term – I must thank all the staff for their efforts but in particular Mrs Marden & Mr Clark who ensured every detail was in place for the evening to run so smoothly.



We were also pleased to launch our first **House Competition** of the academic year, which will run over the next three weeks. The focus of this challenge is Reading, with the aim of encouraging students to achieve a three-week streak on *Sparx Reader*. This platform supports students in completing at least 20 minutes of additional reading each week. Those who meet the challenge will be rewarded with extra house points in recognition of their commitment and effort.

House Points are issued for positive behaviours or learning within/outside the classroom as well as for volunteering and representing the school. We are approaching thirty thousand points being awarded this term to date with Year 7 and Year 10 streaking ahead. Average House Points per students sits at 77, with some students considerably higher than this – congratulations to top scorers Hazel, Toby, Eva, Daisy, Anouk, Laxita, Max P, Georgie G, Sebastian J, Jack F, Elliot and Gabi (Year 7), Leo, Edith (Y8), Achintha (Y9) and Poppy E, Oscar H & Libby (Y10) who have over 130 points. A breakdown of current House standings can be found below:



A reminder that you (and students) can keep up to date with House Points (as well as homework assignments, key announcements, and any behaviour points) via the Class Charts app. It is great that over 88% of parents have signed up and activated their accounts – if you have not, please do refer to emails or speak to the office who will assist you.

Many of our **Year 11** students this week started some more serious thinking about Post 16 options by attending Open Evenings. As part of our programme of support for them all Year 11 will undertake a Mock Interview on Monday 20 October or Tuesday 21 October. Students will spend time within tutor time and Personal Development lessons to prepare over the next two weeks. We are delighted to welcome volunteers from our Governing Body, Central Trust staff and local employers who will conduct the interviews.



This weekend we welcome South Oxfordshire Primary School cross country back to MECE – it looks like it could be a wet and windy affair... but that is exactly what cross country running is all about? We have a dedicated team of student volunteers helping with marshalling and CESA will be keeping spectators well fed and warm with hot drinks and sausage sandwiches – thank you in advance to all those braving the elements!

My weekend will be a literary one with the Henley Literary Festival kicking off over the weekend and I am excited to be seeing Joanna Lumley, Ben Youngs and Mary Portas over the next few days.

Best wishes for a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



Miss E Bliss  
Headteacher

