



12 December 2025

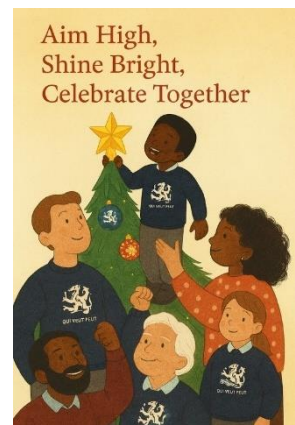
Dear parents and carers,

*'Twas the penultimate week of winter term, and all through the school,
Students bustled with projects and trying to following the rule(s).
The classrooms were lively, the hallways aglow,
With excitement for holidays and maybe... some snow!
As we start to wrap up the term and look toward a new year,
We celebrate hard work, friendship, and plenty of cheer.*



And with that, here's a wrap up of this week at MECE!

The week started with the lovely task of reviewing the Christmas Card entries – we had over 100 which was an excellent return. A special shout out to Ms Dunn, Head of Thames house, who was very proactive in getting students to complete an entry. The winning designs have now been turned into cards – one physical and one digital – to be sent to local schools, agencies and companies within our community and local network. Huge congratulations to Sophie and Hannah (both Y7) on their winning entries and to Alex (Y9), Isaac (Y10), Ayla (Y7) and Eva (Y7) who were Highly Commended for their efforts.



On Tuesday Year 9 Battle of the Bands finals took place with 10 acts making it through class heats to perform on the stage in the school hall. The programme included performances of a





Queen medley, Seven Nation Army, Pink Pony Club & the eventual winners (Peter, Henry, Aron and Hugh) gave their rendition of Mardy-Bum. Thanks to Mrs Brown for coordinating the event.



Wednesday was a very busy day at MECE with a number of activities taking place. Year 9 completed the “straw poll” – this marks the very start of the “pre-options” process which ultimately sees students select subjects that they will continue with to GCSE qualifications. The aim of the straw poll is to just start planting the seed for the students ahead of the full launch in February.

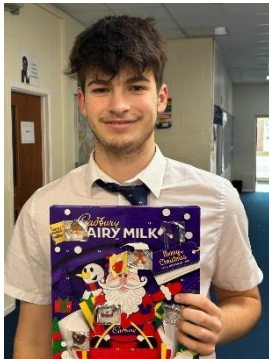
Years 7-9 was also Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) – whereby for 20 minutes in the afternoon all students and staff engaged in a period of reading a book of their choice. DEAR forms part of our wider Reading strategy and provides a periodic opportunity to highlight the importance of reading for pleasure. The book fayre continues to be popular with lots of students coming to browse and purchase books from the wide selection on offer. It will be available up to next Thursday in the library at lunchtimes.

And finally for Wednesday, 18 students (and Mrs Brown, Ms Rees and Mrs Davies) took 18 students to Abbeycrest Nursing Home in Sonning Common to sing some carols and Christmas songs for the residents. There were even some audience participation songs that were really well received. The students performed brilliantly and the feedback from the staff and residents was wonderful – they have asked if we can go back more regularly and even if we could help them set up a resident’s choir in the new year!





Hopefully you will have seen pictures of our daily 'Advent' winners – the student who has received the most House Points in a day earns themselves the chocolate from the calendar! I have been delighted to see the range of students from across the years continue from last week and that the students have even been commenting on how close they were to claiming the daily prize. This week's winners included Maisie (Y10), Archie (Y11), Hanga (Y9), Toby H(Y11), and Dom (Y10).



Alongside regularly earned House Points, students have continued to earn House Points for acts of kindness during our "kindness fortnight" – the points earned in this category will underpin the criteria for invite to the end of term reward next Thursday afternoon – students have until Tuesday to add to their tallies with invites being issued on Wednesday.

Year 7 girls had a football fixture against Langtree last night and despite losing in regular time, it was agreed that a set of penalties would be played – which we won... so we'll celebrate that – well done girls!

And finally for the week, this morning Mrs Hills and I launched the Silver club with invited students in Y7/8 which will provide lots of opportunities for them to extend their knowledge and curiosity beyond the taught curriculum. Their first task is to explore the notion of power and influence & to consider how they would like to be remembered in the world.

Just to give you some advance notice that we have a vacancy for another **Parent** member on the School Advisory Board (SAB) for MECE and so we will therefore be seeking volunteers from our parent community to join the SAB. We welcome nominations from any parents/carers with an interest in this - you do not need to be an expert in the field of education. What you do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. You will also need 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team and to be able to question and challenge.





The formal election period will be opened in the new year and we will send out more information before Christmas, but in the meantime, if you have any questions please do contact Helen White, Clerk to MECE SAB at h.white1@maidenerleghtrust.org or our existing Parent SAB member Georgina Edwards (G.Edwards@maidenerleghtrust.org) to find out more.

Congratulations to Dev (Y8) who has completed a sponsored 10km walk in aid of the charity Shelter. Dev battled through some tough conditions as well as being amazing at motivating his little sister to complete the walk. Together they have raised £130 with the total continuing to rise.



And finally, a quick reminder of the activities taking place next week:

Thursday 18th December: Christmas jumper day, Christmas Lunch, Rewards Afternoon (invite only) & Christmas Carol Concert (6pm).

*A reminder that the canteen **WILL NOT** be open for lunch service on this day unless a pre-booked Christmas lunch has been organised – students not having Christmas lunch will need to either bring a packed lunch or purchase something at breaktime.*

Friday 19th December: PE kit for all students, Santa Run in the morning and school ending at 1pm.

Thank you to all those who have purchased a Santa Hat via parent pay – these will be issued on Thursday to the students. There will also be some available to purchase on Thursday (in school and at the Christmas concert and on Friday morning).

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Miss E Bliss
Headteacher





MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

Headteacher: Emma Bliss
MA, NPQH

Reades Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9LN
0118 972 1500
meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk
[@MaidenErleghTru](#)

Maiden Erlegh Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales under company number 07548754 with registered office at Silverdale Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 7HS.

