



Message from the Head



As the autumn term draws to a close, it has been a real pleasure to reflect on the “Ber” months and to celebrate the many achievements and experiences our MECE students have enjoyed. With such a rich and varied programme on offer, selecting highlights is never easy; however, I must mention the fabulous Belgium trip I was fortunate to accompany during October half term, the highly successful Year 11 Mock Interview programme, and the superb community outreach work with Sonning Common, Kidmore End and Caversham Park Primary Schools involving many of our Year 10 and Year 11 students.

Equally impressive has been the enthusiasm shown during the Year 8 team-building day and the launch of the “Year of Opportunity”, alongside the heart-warming festive community initiatives at the Weller Centre and Abbeycrest Nursing Home. Each of these opportunities has seen our students step forward with confidence, demonstrate maturity, and represent MECE with pride within our wider community.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all staff for their dedication and commitment—whether in the classroom, as part of our support teams, or through the organisation of our extensive enrichment programme. These opportunities simply would not be possible without their energy, care and professionalism.

As we look ahead to the Spring term, there is much to be excited about. A full calendar of learning, enrichment and leadership opportunities awaits, and I look forward to seeing our students continue to challenge themselves, seize new opportunities and build on the strong foundations of this term.

Wishing you all a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved break.



What’s coming up?

5 Jan	RETURN TO SCHOOL
22 Jan	Y8 Parents Evening
23 Jan	Y11 Prom Fashion Show & Dress Sale 6—9pm
26 Jan	Astronomy Evening
28 Jan	Immunisations HPV
28 Jan	Y9/10 Maths Challenge
29 Jan	GCSE Drama Trip
9–13 Feb	National Apprenticeships Week
9–13 Feb	Y11 PPE's
16–20 Feb	Half Term
25/26 Feb	Sister Act
27 Feb	Inset Day (School Closed to Students)





Modern Foreign Languages

We had a busy term in French. Welcoming our year 7 was amazing. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn have made French lessons vibrant and exciting. After half term, year 11 had their mocks. A good experience which has set the tone and brought confidence to most. KS3 had their end of term assessment. We also practiced speaking.



It is a joy to see our students growing in confidence and building resilience.

PE

PE this term has been busy introducing some new sports and teams to our offer.

Trampoline club has been really well attended and students have been learning somersaults and back flips! Another outside club that comes into school to broaden our provision is Wallingford Archers. The archery club continues to grow from strength to strength, with students not bringing in their won bows!

We very much welcome strengthening our links with local clubs and please contact us if your club would like to set up a new and exciting club for MECE students.

Basketball club with Mr Mav has been very well attended and the Y10/11 boys team recently played Wallingford (drawing the game) and Oratory. The plan is to grow this sport in the coming years with games planned against Langtree, Oratory, Wallingford and Gillotts. We would also welcome girls to come along and join the practices on Wednesday lunchtimes and Thursday after school.



Cross Country club continues throughout the winter months and the students love the time to be running on local trails, socialising with each other and building on a healthy lifestyle.

Mr Groves has been opening the gym on Thursday after school and we hope students will

make use of this fantastic resource in the school.

A huge thank you to our local sponsors- Harringtons and Peppard Building Supplies who have sponsored our school football kits. The players take great pride now in turning up, looking professional and representing our school in Inter School matches. Girls football continues to be popular and we have been playing friendlies against Icknield and league matches against Langtree, Wheatly Park and Wallingford school.



Our school hosted the South Oxfordshire Duathlon. A brutal 2km row followed by a 2km run (yr 8 to 10 students participating). A special mention to Freddie Wright in yr 9 who was

the fastest boy on the day.

Rowing club continues to grow and we hope students will be on the River Thames with henley rowing club from March this year. This is a fantastic opportunity to Learn to Row. Our indoor rowing team took part in the South Oxfordshire championships. A special mention to Amelia and Hazel in year 7 who finished 3rd and 4th overall respectively.

Participants from year 7 to 9 took part this year.

Finally, this year we have been sending out over 30 students to our local Primary schools to act as Yong leaders in



sport, art, IT and Forest school! We are very grateful to our local Primary schools for facilitating this and our students are benefiting from this experience.

A big thank you to Mr Kafroshi who has finished his first term at the school since joining us after a very successful trainee teacher placement last Spring/Summer. Miss Nott, our new trainee teacher has also thrown herself into the lessons and extra curricular activities. She's been a great role model and we've seen a big upsurge in girls participation in and out of class.

And as the weather gets colder we would like to





thank Sonning Common Garages for sponsoring the staff sweatshirts and winter jackets! They are very much appreciated at this time of year.



Next term will see more fixtures and opportunities for students. If you would like to volunteer and support the school with any extra curricular clubs we would love to hear from you- from Mountain biking to Ultimate Frisbee, Dance to Drama, please get in touch.

Drama

This year has begun with fantastic energy and creativity across all drama year groups.

Year 7 have made an amazing start, developed their understanding of drama conventions and building strong physical and vocal skills. Through their work on Intro to Drama and Darkwood Manor, they have begun to create believable characters and are already demonstrating impressive ability in performance. Next term, they will visit the past world of *Melodrama*.

Year 8 are progressing confidently, with performances showing real development. They have explored *Theatre in Education* and engaged with script work, learning skills such as hot seating, developing characters within a text, and effective line learning.

Year 9 have risen to the challenge of working with an OCR GCSE Drama text, achieving great success. They are currently studying the Craig and Bentley story, "Let Him Have It," and have been highly creative in devising their own performances, writing their own scripts, and staging their own work.

Year 10 are currently working on their Devising mock, which is shaping up to be extremely strong. Students are demonstrating impressive directing, acting, and staging skills, showing a real eye for crafting meaningful and engaging drama.

Year 11 have completed their PPEs and moved straight into their next exam component. They are now working on their Presenting and Performing Texts unit, focusing on Dennis Kelly's *DNA*, where they are exploring character, staging, and the methods of practitioner Stanislavski.

Extracurricular

Sister Act is shaping up wonderfully, with an incredible range of talent and enthusiasm within the cast.



We cannot wait to welcome audiences in February! Please keep an eye out for more information about how you can come along and see the show.

Science and DT

In Food & Nutrition, Year 10 & 11 have been practicing their higher-level skills and Year 8 have completed their British Bake Off! The winner will be announced in the Celebration Assembly at the end of term.



In Design and Technology, Year 7 have been learning about safe working with pillar drills, band facers and engraving! Year 9 have produced a variety of original clock designs using the laser cutter, while Year 10 have made speaker units.

In Science, Y10 Triple Science students have kicked off their science fair projects and STEM club have investigated optical illusions and chemical tests.



Maths

Year 7

Students strengthened their foundational skills in number and algebra, and as part of Black History Month, they designed creative clocks inspired by the influential Benjamin Banneker, incorporating angles, symmetry, and artistic design.

Year 8

Students extended their understanding with more complex number work, algebraic manipulation and proportional reasoning that deepened their fluency.

Year 9

Students moved closer to GCSE-level expectations, tackling more challenging algebra, real-life problem solving, and introductory topics from both the Higher and Foundation GCSE strands.

Year 10

Students began their GCSE mathematics course in full, studying algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics in greater depth while applying methods to multi-step problems. Many also attended the **A Level Maths Club**, where they explored concepts beyond GCSE level.

Year 11

Students consolidated their learning, revised key GCSE topics, and strengthened their exam skills through practice papers and targeted support.





Those preparing for further study took part in the **A Level Maths Club**, gaining an early introduction to more advanced mathematical ideas.

Humanities

It has been a busy term for Humanities! Half term saw the second iteration of the fantastic Ypres trip with many appropriately sombre moments in the battlefields, cemeteries and museums as well as many opportunities for some laughs and light-heartedness. A thanks to Mr Mount and the team for



the time taken.

With the help of Mr Perry, 5 of our top Geographers represented MECE (and Barbados!) in the Reading Schools Climate Conference. They researched incredibly hard and really held their own against the other schools, particularly when explaining the impact of our new reusable bottle scheme. A huge well done to Elliot, Izzy, Henry, Olivia and Poppy-Ann. Year 11 Geographers are currently preparing for their second compulsory fieldwork. Though perhaps less adventurous than the coastal fieldwork, a visit to Sonning Common will produce crucial results needed for the exam. Alongside all of these remains the ever-popular weekly History Club where students self-direct the topics and presentations.

Public Speaking

This year Ms Flett accompanied a group of year 9

students for the annual Lionheart Business and Enterprise Challenge hosted at MES. Students were mixed with ones from the other Maiden Erlegh Schools and had to hold their own in planning their own business. It was a gruelling day and a lot was expected of them in terms of team-work, creativeness and independent working. It's safe to say, all of our representatives rose to the challenge and we took home some excellent trophies! Mr Groves introduced our debaters to their first competition and organised an external visitor to host a debating masterclass. Both of these were fantastic opportunities and we hope to be able to take up more in the future.

Careers

As year 11 start applying to their Further Education providers for next year, this has been a very busy term. October saw our 'mock interviews' where over a dozen volunteers from our local community gave up their day to 'interview' our year 11 students. The students had previously prepared a CV and application form and rose to the challenge of being asked rigorous questions by a stranger. It was certainly a valuable experience. A huge thanks to all the volunteers many of whom then stayed on to host a 'human library' for our year 8 students who, in speed-dating style, asked as many questions as possible to find out about the varying careers and opportunities represented in the room. They came away



buzzing with lots of ideas and avenues to explore. Year 11 then spent a day at Henley College as a taster for life in a college, before visiting the Maiden Erlegh Trust HE and FE fair at MES. This was a great opportunity to speak to lots of local providers including colleges and some universities about the experiences they had to offer. Next term, we start with an enterprise day for year 7 students with more details to follow.

Reading

As always, we are passionate about reading and literacy at MECE. As Sparx Reader becomes embedded, we are delighted by how many students are thoroughly enjoying their books and the escapism that reading them offers. As we have said many times before, for anyone not enjoying their book, they simply haven't yet found the right book! Year 8 were very fortunate to be part of the BookBuzz programme this year

and selected a book to keep from an amazing array of new, highly recommended reads from the Book Trust. They might even choose to use them at this year's first Drop Everything and Read on 10 December. Finally, our regular Scholastic Book Fair is back and just in time to stock up for Christmas! Students can visit from 9 Dec at lunchtimes in the library until the end of term and either buy with a card if they have one or take their wish list home and buy online. All sales add up to reward books for school.





English

Year 10 & 11 Macbeth Performance

On Tuesday 14th October, the Guildford Shakespeare Company visited our school to perform *Macbeth* for Year 10 and Year 11 students who study the play for their GCSE English Literature course. The performance took place in the school hall and was delivered by a small but highly talented company, who brought Shakespeare's words vividly to life. Students showed an excellent standard of behaviour throughout and were fully engaged in the performance. Standout moments included the students' responses to the tense scenes between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, and their shock and surprise at the brutal murder of Macduff's wife and children. It was a valuable learning opportunity that helped students to visualise key scenes they have studied or will study in the future, and to experience Shakespeare's work as it was originally intended — performed live on stage. The students' impressive conduct means we can look forward to more opportunities like this in the future. A big thank you to Miss Thomas and Mrs Hills for organising the visit, and to all the teaching staff who supervised and supported the event.



Kenya Update:

We are looking forward to learning more about our school in Kenya where students will be volunteering. We hope to build a close relationship with the student and staff so that more students will be able to engage in this amazing initiative.

Fundraising is in full effect with students being proactive both in and out of school. With Christmas carol concerts and Santa Dashes in school, Battle of the Bands and Community car washes, students have been demonstrating and building many work / life skills in their personal development. From learning the art of communication and persuasion for donations to interpersonal skills dealing with customers, managing their finances to marketing and sales, we hope students are

realising that this trip to Kenya is more than just the 10 days they will spend volunteering and exploring the wonderful culture of Kenyans.

If you or your company would like to learn more about our trip to Kenya and potential support students or the school we will be volunteering at in Kenya, please get in touch with Mr Caldwell.



Attendance Update

Our attendance strategy this year is **Belonging, Inclusion & Success** – helping every child feel safe, seen and valued so they are ready to learn. We're already seeing positive shifts, with several students improving their attendance by **5%** and even **30%** compared to this time last year. This term, our whole-school focus has been on **Warm Welcomes** and **Respectful Interactions**, building strong relationships and a calm, supportive culture.

Parents play a crucial role in this work. Please support your child by encouraging daily attendance, positive routines and active participation in school life, including clubs and opportunities. When students feel connected and included, they turn up, take part and achieve more.





Year 7

As we reach the end of a fantastic Autumn Term, I want to extend a huge congratulations to our entire Year 7 cohort for an exceptional start to life at MECE. Transitioning to secondary school is a massive step, and every single student has risen to the challenge with maturity, enthusiasm and kindness.

This term, Year 7 have collectively earned an impressive 18,3291 positive points! A special well-done to:

- 7A – an outstanding 6387 points and the lowest number of negative points in the year group.
- 7C – a brilliant total of 6276 points.
- 7B – a strong 5652 points.

Their achievements reflect hard work, positive attitudes and the pride they are taking in being members of the MECE community.

Some of my key highlights this term have been watching strong bonds forming within tutor groups and excellent friendships developing across the year. The way you have supported one another and welcomed new faces has been truly impressive.

It was also brilliant to see some year 7s engaging so positively in the Discover Your Voice workshop. Designed to strengthen oracy through debate and discussion, the workshop gave you an opportunity to express yourselves confidently and collaboratively — skills that will serve you incredibly well throughout your time at MECE and beyond.

Every single student in Year 7 has treated staff with exemplary respect, and the positive relationships built — particularly with your tutors — have helped create a calm, warm and successful start to the year. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their tireless efforts in supporting your student each morning and guiding them through these first important months.

It has been wonderful to see so many of them already getting into the festive spirit! I am looking forward to enjoying the upcoming MECE festive activities with them all as we celebrate the end of a successful term.

A special mention goes to George, Isla and Ashleigh, who represented MECE so brilliantly at a recent event at The Weller Centre. They were fantastic ambassadors for the school — thank you for your enthusiasm and your community spirit and showing our wider community that MECE is truly a small school with a big heart!

As parents and guardians, your support, encouragement and feedback has been hugely appreciated. Working together makes such a

difference, and your collaboration has helped ensure that Year 7's introduction to MECE has been truly excellent. I am incredibly proud of everything they have achieved this term and excited to see what they will accomplish in 2026!

Have a wonderful festive break!

Year 8

What a brilliant Autumn Term it has been for Year 8! As we reach the end of 2025, I want to celebrate the hard work, enthusiasm and resilience they have shown throughout the term.

Year 8 have together achieved an impressive 10,785 positive points — a testament to their focus, teamwork and determination. A huge well done to:

- 8B – an outstanding 5,417 points
- 8A – a brilliant 5,368 points

Your efforts truly reflect our MECE values.

One of the standout moments of this term has been the official launch of the Year of Opportunities. This initiative is something I am incredibly passionate about, and it has been amazing to see it slowly come to life.

A massive thank you goes to the parents and to CESA, whose generous donations enabled us to launch this project.

I also want to extend special thanks to Miss Bliss and Mr Clark for their constant encouragement and invaluable support in helping me to facilitate this programme. Their enthusiasm has played a huge role in ensuring its success so far.

The WiseUp Team Building Day was a huge success — a real highlight of the term. I thoroughly enjoyed spending the entire day with Year 8, and I was genuinely touched that so many of them asked for me to accompany their groups.

Students worked in four teams to tackle a range of exciting challenges. One of the most memorable was "Changing Places," where students stood on a bench and had to organise themselves by age, height and even shoe size — all without stepping off. This required huge amounts of communication, problem-solving and teamwork, and for some groups it took almost a full hour, requiring me to acquire a chair so I could comfortably assist!

I was incredibly impressed with how thoughtfully you reflected on key skills such as communication, motivation and teamwork after each challenge. Your reflections helped you improve and approach each





new task with greater confidence and strategy. I am very excited to see these reflections captured in your MECE Passports.

Plans are already underway for the second stage of the Year of Opportunities, with a focus on careers and aspirations. We are currently organising a trip to Reading University, and I encourage you to look out for letters with further details in the coming weeks. This next phase promises to be inspiring, enriching and full of new experiences.

As the term draws to a close, I want to genuinely thank you all — students, parents and carers — for your support. I know there have been some challenges along the way, but your unwavering commitment to the school and to the success of Year 8 has not gone unnoticed. There is so much positivity ahead, and I am excited to continue the rest of the academic year with you.

Please remember, my door and my inbox are always open should you need anything.

I am really looking forward to spending my first MECE festive period with the year group. Your energy, humour and enthusiasm have made this term a joy, and I can't wait to celebrate the end of 2025 with you all.

Have a wonderful, restful and festive break!

Year 9 & 10

What an incredible start to the year it has been for both Year 9 and Year 10. From the first week of September right through to the final days of this term, these year groups have shown real determination, character, and heart. They've embraced new challenges, risen to new expectations, and thrown themselves into every opportunity that has come their way.

This term has been full of standout moments. From Open Evening and Open Morning tours, where our students received glowing feedback for their confidence and professionalism, to Sister Act rehearsals that have showcased just how talented and dedicated they are. Year 9 shone during the Lionheart Challenge, showing teamwork and creativity, while Year 10 have continued to strengthen our community links through their primary school mentoring visits. Our girls' football team showed grit and teamwork, and our nurture group has continued its brilliant work supporting wellbeing through mindfulness and yoga. It has also been wonderful to see more students stepping up in lessons, tutor activities and wider school life with maturity and pride.

Attendance has been a continued focus, with Year 9 regularly achieving strong weekly figures and Year 10 showing clear improvement as the term progressed. Both groups are learning that consistency is the key to

success. Behaviour expectations have remained high, and although a small number of reminders were needed along the way, the wider year groups have demonstrated politeness, respect, and a commitment to learning every single week. Our new behaviour escalation system has already made a positive difference, and students are taking greater responsibility for their choices.

There has been so much to celebrate academically too. Dropping into lessons has been a real highlight — seeing Year 10 thriving in their option subjects and Year 9 building the habits they need ready for GCSE thinking. Students have approached reading, writing, discussion, and challenge with increasing confidence. Year 10 have already begun thinking about work experience, and the Year 9 options process is being mapped out ready for the new year. It's been exciting to see both year groups beginning to imagine their futures.

Above all, what has stood out most this term is the sense of community. From kindness shown during Anti-Bullying Week, to resilience on the sports field, to enthusiasm in rehearsals and trips — these students have shown again and again what they are capable of. They have made me laugh, made me proud, and made me hopeful for everything they will become.

It has been a privilege to guide them this term, and I cannot wait to see what the next one holds.

"Success is built on the small things you do consistently."

If this term is anything to go by, Years 9 and 10 are building something brilliant.

Year 11

It has been a great start to their final for year 11. So many students have stepped up to the plate of being the oldest and the role models of the school and this can be seen in both lessons and around the school site. The recent PPE results show this and there was huge improvements from many students across the year group from their year 10 PPE's and with this continued growth and commitment to learning I am sure all will succeed in the summer.

Its with a heavy heart that we are already thinking about their next steps and when they will leave us in the summer. Earlier this term we spent a day at henley college where the students experienced a wide range of different subjects at A-level, BTEC and more, in subjects that they had picked themselves. Along with this they experienced a higher education faire at Maiden Erlegh school giving some students ideas on what to pursue post education.





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

[@maidenerleghchilternedge](https://www.instagram.com/maidenerleghchilternedge)

[@MEChilternEdge](https://www.tiktok.com/@MEChilternEdge)

[@Maiden-Erleigh-Chiltern-Edge](https://www.facebook.com/maidenerleghchilternedge)



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

