



16 January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Well, this week's MECE weather review mainly consists of rain... and pretty heavy at some points in the week, including the deluge we had at the start of lunchtime today! It was good to see students making the sensible choice to stay inside rather than puddle jumping and getting themselves soaked for the remainder of the afternoon.

This week we welcome Mrs Rowe to the MECE team. Mrs Rowe joins our admin team and, in her role, will be supporting staff and students with tasks as varied as ClassCharts onboarding, lesson resource prep, canteen supervision, liaising with outside agencies and more than likely helping me format this newsletter each week.



As I hinted at last week, our Annual Photography Competition has launched today to the students (and staff). This year's theme is "January" allowing entries to draw inspiration on a range of themes including winter stillness, life in the cold, new beginnings and reflections. I look forward to seeing their entries, all of which will earn House Points with the winning ones also being displayed around the school. Students will need to join the Photo Competition Google Classroom (**code: xqedczzm**) to upload their entries and the deadline is **30 January**. Please see the slides at the end of the letter for more information.

This week I hosted the second meeting of the Silver Club. Over the Christmas break students had been learning about the "power of one" and exploring ideas to do with what they wished their legacy to be when leaving school and what impact they might have on the world. I opened the session by asking them to consider what their autobiography would be called (in 30 odd years' time!) and there were some lovely suggestions including "A Kind of Difference", "Be You, Do You", "Stars and Dreams" and "Fail a lot, Succeed a lot". We concluded the sessions by discussing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how we can individually do our bit to make the world a better place for all.





On Wednesday Year 8 boys (bolstered by some keen Year 7s) played in the first basketball fixture. There were 3 games in total, and our boys won one, drew one and lost one – pretty good showing for our first games. Next week a small group of students from Years 7, 9 and 10 are competing at the Oxfordshire Athletics – I look forward to updating you on their successes next week.

On Thursday Year 11 sat a 45-minute assessment to conclude their Christmas Homework cycle. As we have come to expect conduct and engagement in the assessment was top notch and there was a very positive feeling from Year 11 as they left their exam about how they had found the questions. A reminder for all that in Year 11 exams students are expected to have a black biro as well as a basic maths set (pencil, ruler, protractor) and a calculator which is the equipment that also forms the basis of our Tools for Learning for all year groups. Please do ensure your son/daughter is attending each day with these basic items to facilitate their learning within class. IF they need to buy spares this can be done at student services before school or at break time.

Last night Mr Caldwell launched Bronze DofE with parents of Year 9. I am a firm supporter of this award and am really pleased to hear that we have a good number of students interested in taking part. I am also delighted to hear that we have 3 groups of Y10 students signed up to complete the Silver level of the award. Neither of these schemes would be possible without our partnerships with The Eyot Centre (Bronze) and Maiden Erlegh School (Silver) as well as a number of staff who volunteer their time afterschool, overnight and over the weekends and I am eternally grateful for those who are able to support the students achieve their awards.

Next week is a busy one for Year 8 in particular with a trip to Reading University on Tuesday and then Y8 Parents' Evening on Thursday – we look forward to seeing parents then.

And finally, a huge thank you to all who supported our Christmas activities at the end of last term. Between the Santa Run, Christmas Concert, Christmas Cards and candy canes we have raised over £1100 towards the Kenya trip, £300 for the Music department and £230 towards Y11 Prom. A superb effort from all in our community!





**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

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Miss E Bliss  
Headteacher



*Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge Annual Photography Competition 2026*

*This year's theme is "January"*

Some ideas for you to consider:

- Winter stillness
- Life in the Cold
- New Beginnings
- Reflections

You are invited to enter *up to 4 photographs* (either as a collection or as individual entries) that represent the month of January.

*Photographs can be*

- Taken on any camera device (SLR, disposable, phone etc)
- They can have been taken previously or especially for this competition
- They must have been taken by you

To enter, upload your photographs (and one sentence that explains how they link to the theme of "January") to Google Classroom: [xqedczm](#)

Every entry gets a House Point

Highly Commended entries get 5 HP, Winners get 10 HP and their entry displayed around school

DEADLINE  
30 January!

*Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge Annual Photography Competition 2026*

*Some inspiration (from the internet!)*



To enter, upload your photographsto Google Classroom: [xqedczm](#)

