

MECE matters

Issue 29

March 2026



Message from the Head



As we reach the end of the Spring term, it's a pleasure to reflect on the energy,

achievement and community spirit that have shaped recent months at MECE. March brought inspiring examples of dedication, including the 20 mile Sponsored Walk for Kenya, where students and staff showed remarkable resilience and compassion while raising funds for Grace Academy School in Nakuru.

Our vibrant Science Fair showcased the creativity and curiosity of Years 7–10, with more than fifty student led exhibits spanning scientific enquiry, problem solving and innovation. We also celebrated the success of our whole school production of *Sister Act Jr.*, which lit up the community with exceptional performances and enthusiastic student

involvement.

The term began with rich opportunities for exploration, including our annual Astronomy Evening with the Reading Astronomical Society, giving students the chance to deepen their scientific understanding and sense of wonder. Students also took part in the 2026 MECE Photography Competition, submitting striking interpretations of the theme "January." The six winning entries will be proudly displayed in the school reception.

Together, these highlights reflect a school community full of ambition, kindness and creativity. As we look ahead to the summer term, we do so with pride in all that our students have achieved and excitement for all that is still to come.

Miss Bliss



What's coming up?

13 April	RETURN TO SCHOOL
17 April	D OF E NAVIGATION & MAPPING DAY
22 April	Y6 NEW STARTERS SOCIAL
4 May	BANK HOLIDAY
5 May	BANK HOLIDAY
W/C 6 May	Y10 WORLD OF WORK WEEK
8 May	CESA QUIZ
8 May	D OF E PRACTICE EXHIBITION
7 May	Y9 TDP/MEN VACCINATIONS
21 May	Y10 PARENTS' EVENING
25 May	HALF TERM
12 June	D OF E FINAL EXHIBITION
25 June	Y7 PARENTS' EVENING
3 July	INSET DAY
13 July	SPORTS DAY
23 July	LAST DAY OF TERM (12:30 FINISH)



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

Modern Foreign Languages

Year 7 have shown enthusiasm in their learning. We had fun and students enjoyed being the teacher, demonstrating a great knowledge of French.



We have been learning the vocabulary about where we live, places in town and what is in our bedroom.

Year 8 learnt about festivals and what to buy at the market. They enjoyed role-play where students

were sellers and buyers, applying their knowledge.

We enjoyed having our lessons in the computer room for KS3, allowing students to work independently. This has been an highlight as all students were able to work efficiently.

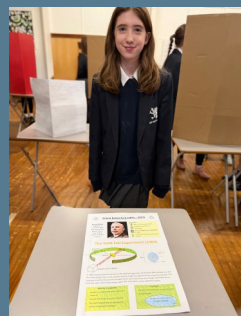
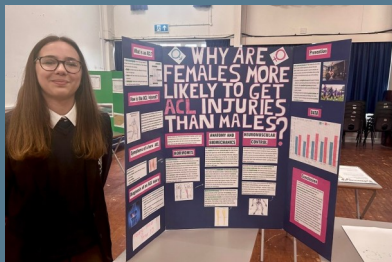
For KS4, where focus is on preparing towards their GCSEs, students have worked on speaking to build confidence.

Mrs Yaucat-Guendi
Head of Communications

Science

It's been a busy term for the Science department with the Astronomy evening and the Science Fair taking place. This year's fair had a record number of entries and some very impressive projects.

Congratulations to the winners (Y7 - Gabi, Y8 Leo, Y9 Ellie and Josh and Y10 Poppy-Ann)



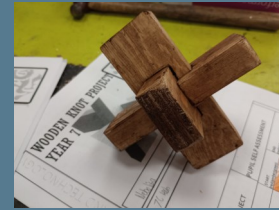
A huge shout out to the Y11s for their amazing improvement in their PPE results, we are very proud of you. Y10 have also been preparing for their first PPEs - we know you will smash it.

In other year groups students have been busy with heart dissections, acids and alkalis

reactions, making their own indicators getting on the field to study ecology.

Mr Mavromichalis
Head of Science & Technology

Design and Technology



KS3 students have produced wooden knot puzzles, explored the work of a range of architects and designed USB lamp products. The new rotation has just started and I look

forward to helping them to improve their DT skills and understanding.



Y11 have recently handed in their GCSE NEA work - so are now fully focussed on exam preparation - and Y10 have completed a range of Headphone/Device storage products, while working through detailed GCSE theory work.

Mr Reskalla
Teacher of Design and Technology

Maths

Maths Relay Game:

To celebrate World Maths Day in the last week of March, all year groups took part in an exciting Maths Relay game, proudly representing their houses. Students worked collaboratively to solve a range of problems, demonstrating teamwork, enthusiasm, and a love for mathematics.

Excellent Results in Intermediate Maths Challenge 2026

We achieved excellent results in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, with many students earning gold, silver, and bronze awards. Congratulations to all participants and winners for their fantastic achievement.



Year 7 & Year 8

Students strengthened their foundational skills in number and algebra during autumn term. In Spring term they are developing their understanding of negative numbers and coordinates, building confidence in working across all four quadrants of the



coordinate grid.

This term Year 8 focused on probability, exploring how to calculate and interpret the likelihood of different outcomes.

Both year groups are making strong progress and are preparing well for the Junior Maths Challenge in April, developing problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning.

Year 9

Year 9 students are now focusing on key GCSE topics, with the aim of performing well in their first PPE, taking place in June. They are developing their understanding of probability alongside strengthening core foundation concepts in algebra. This work is helping to build confidence, fluency, and problem-solving skills as they prepare for their upcoming assessments.

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 10 students are working hard as they prepare for their PPEs in April. They will experience a range of GCSE-style questions, giving them a valuable insight into the format and expectations of the exams. They are motivated and excited to do their best, continuing to build their confidence and exam skills. A couple of Y9 and Y10s took part in the Kangaroo Challenge, and we are eagerly awaiting their results, which we expect to be excellent.

Year 11

Students consolidated their learning by revising key GCSE topics and strengthening their exam skills through practice papers and targeted support. Those preparing for further study also took part in the A Level

Maths Club, gaining an early introduction to more advanced mathematical ideas. They have made tremendous progress in their recent PPEs, and we wish them every success in their upcoming GCSE examinations.

Mrs Gopal

Head of Maths & Computing

Drama

A huge well done to the wonderful production of Sister Act! Each student has been given their own envelope of pictures by Caroline Stoves as a keepsake. It was a truly tremendous performance with a huge turnout for both



nights! A huge thank you to all students and staff involved.

KS3 Drama club will start after Easter where students will perform in A Midsummer Nights' Dream. This will be a very exciting opportunity for our KS3 Drama enthusiasts to work together on something new but with a twist of all things Shakespeare! Year 11 have been working really hard on the final hurdle of their practical exams. An examiner from OCR will be coming to watch them after Easter. They have truly put the work in both inside and outside of class, it has been a wonderful experience getting to work with so much talent in one class!

Year 10 PPEs are coming up, and we have been studying Blood Brothers. They have enjoyed performing the scenes, learning about staging and lighting, and exploring the characters in detail. After Easter, they will start creating their own plays as part of their first practical exam for GCSE Drama.

Mrs Richmond
Drama Teacher

Music

Following on from the success of the Christmas Concert it has been a busy term in the music department. Lunchtimes are always loud with lots of different bands/groups and soloists practicing.

GCSE Music is filling more of the timetable with classes in both year 10 and 11 for the first time for many years. Year 11 are very close to submitting their final performances (30%) and compositions (30%) which has been a lot of hard work, but they can go into their written exam knowing that they only have the remaining 40% to do! Year 10s are also working hard on their performance and composition pieces.

This term in Key Stage Three the focus has been on melody and rhythm. Year 7 have worked on



rhythmic notation and pentatonic melodies. Year 8 on polyrhythms, minimalism and improvisation. Year 9 have worked on reggae and samba music.

We have had Miss Piper with us this half term as part of her teacher training, and it has been great to have a second music teacher in the school. She has worked with students from all year groups, and it has been great to have her here. We wish her well as she continues her training back at Highdown.

We have two other visiting music teacher who come to MECE each week. Between them they teach piano, guitar and drums. If anyone would like to arrange lessons for their child, please contact me.

Mrs Brown
Music Teacher

PE

It has been a fantastic and active term for PE and extra-curricular sport, with students showing great enthusiasm, commitment, and teamwork across a wide range of activities.

PE & Competitive Sport Highlights

Our netball teams have proudly represented the school in two local tournaments this term. Throughout both events, students demonstrated excellent resilience, strong teamwork, and a real commitment to supporting and improving one another—qualities we are incredibly proud of.

In football, we have seen weekly fixtures for students in Years 7–11. Some year groups have combined teams, rising to the challenge of playing against older students and competing well. Their determination and positive attitude have been outstanding.



Clubs & Opportunities

Our extra-curricular programme continues to thrive, offering something for everyone:

Rowing Club has been progressing brilliantly. From Friday training sessions, students are now ready to take the exciting next step—moving onto the water at



Henley on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The **fitness suite** is now in full swing and open to all students every Wednesday and Thursday after school—an excellent opportunity to build strength, fitness, and confidence.



Looking ahead, our **Year 9 students** will be taking on leadership roles in the summer term by running a sports club for Years 7 and 8 on Thursdays—an exciting opportunity to develop leadership and mentoring skills.

Trampolining Club has run successfully for 18 weeks this term and has been extremely well attended by Key Stage 3 students.

Dance Club continues to be a popular lunchtime option, giving students a creative and energetic outlet during the school day.

Star of the Term: Pickleball!

A special mention must go to pickleball, which has truly been the standout activity this term! Its fast-paced, inclusive nature has made it an instant hit with students across year groups. It has been fantastic to see so many pupils getting involved, learning new skills, and enjoying this exciting sport together.



Thank You



We would like to thank all students for their continued enthusiasm and commitment, and parents for their ongoing support. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils getting involved, trying new activities, and representing the school with pride.

We look forward to another exciting term ahead!

The PE Team



Kenya walk

In mid March an amazing group of students and staff who completed a 20 mile sponsored walk in support of our Kenya project. Across the 11-hour day they encountered every bit of British weather possible – sun, wind, rain and even hail! But, fuelled by an array of snacks and good humour spirits remained high and today their smiles outshone their sore feet. As part of the walk students also visited four other Trust schools to deliver assemblies and speak with staff about the project.

They raised awareness of the challenges many young people face in accessing education around the world and represented our school with real pride and maturity.



Duke of Edinburgh Update

This term, we were delighted to celebrate just under 30 students from our 2024–2025 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze cohort who have successfully completed their awards and had them officially verified.

To achieve their Bronze Award, students completed four key sections: volunteering, physical, skills, and expedition. It has been fantastic to see the wide range of activities they have undertaken and the commitment they have shown throughout.

Our students made a real difference in the local community through their volunteering. This included environmental work such as litter picking with Keep Caversham Tidy, supporting at Palmers Riding Stables, and demonstrating leadership by running tutor sessions, homework clubs, and football coaching for younger students. Some even extended their impact by delivering sessions in local primary schools.



For the physical section, students participated in a variety of activities, including gymnastics, football, basketball, horse riding, and gym-based training, showing dedication to improving their fitness and wellbeing.

In the skills section, students developed an impressive range of talents. These included cooking, drama and acting, learning musical instruments, completing an Open

University course in money management, and even undertaking coding projects.

All students successfully completed their expedition during the spring and summer terms last year, supported by Mr Caldwell and Mr Nutt from the Eyot Centre.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for achieving their Bronze Awards alongside their academic studies. We look forward to seeing what our 2025–2026 Silver and Bronze cohorts accomplish, with practice expeditions already planned for next term.

‘January’ 2026 Photography Competition

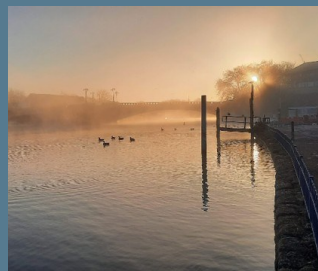
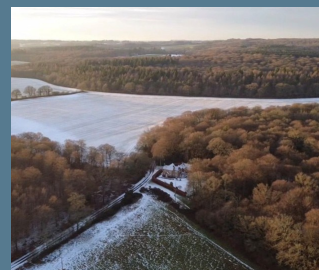
This term, students across MECE enthusiastically took part in our annual Photography Competition, responding creatively to the theme “January.” We were delighted by the large number of entries submitted, each offering a unique interpretation of the month. Students explored a wide range of ideas, capturing the quiet beauty of nature, the dramatic shifts in winter weather, and thoughtful concepts of “reflection”—both in the literal and metaphorical sense.

The standard of photography was exceptionally high, with compositions that showcased not only technical skill but also imagination and emotional insight. After much careful consideration, six winning photographs were selected from across Years 7–10, representing the diversity and creativity of our young artists.

These winning images will be proudly displayed in the school reception, celebrating the talent of our students and offering a striking visual welcome to all who visit MECE.

The winners were:

- Austin E (Y7)
- Saanvi K (Y10)
- Zac D (Y10)
- Aistis B (Y10)
- Elliot M (Y10)
- Samuel S (Y11)



Year 7

This term, students have achieved an impressive 5736 positive points, alongside an exceptional attendance figure of 96.21%. These achievements reflect the outstanding effort, behaviour, and commitment to learning that we are seeing across the year group—a massive well done to all the students.

I continue to receive regular positive feedback from staff, and I feel truly honoured to witness the students' ongoing successful transition into life at MECE. They have embraced the challenges and opportunities of secondary school with enthusiasm and maturity. They have set the bar very high for the incoming class of 2026! I have been especially impressed by how many students have fully immersed themselves in the wider MECE community. It was a pleasure to see Sophie and Hannah confidently presenting at History Club recently—

an excellent example of students stepping up and getting involved beyond the classroom.

A particular highlight of the term was our Just Dance Friday, where the entire year



group came together for a tutor time of dancing in the hall. It was a fantastic morning full of energy and laughter—I'm still not sure who enjoyed it more, the students or myself and Mrs Richmond!

Following the January timetable changes, I have also had the privilege of getting to know more students within the classroom setting. I continue to be impressed by every group's enthusiasm for learning and their positive approach in lessons.

Thank you for your continued support. It is a joy to work with such a brilliant group of young people.

Year 8

I am incredibly proud to report a fantastic **3902 positive points** achieved by the year group, alongside an **attendance figure of 86.68%**. This reflects the continued effort, commitment, and positive attitudes shown by the students—well done to all.

As part of our **Year of Opportunities programme**, students visited Reading University in January. This was a valuable experience, giving them insight into university life and future pathways. A particular

highlight for many was discovering the on-campus co-op—definitely a popular talking point! It was fantastic to hear so many students begin to consider higher education.



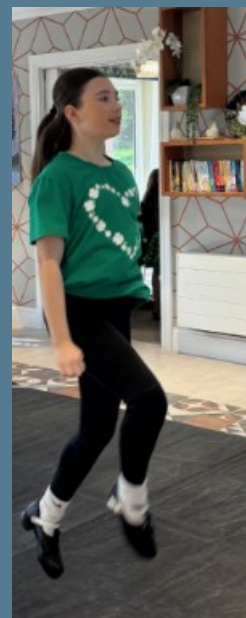
We are also looking forward to welcoming Network Rail on 27 March, who will be working with students to further

develop their

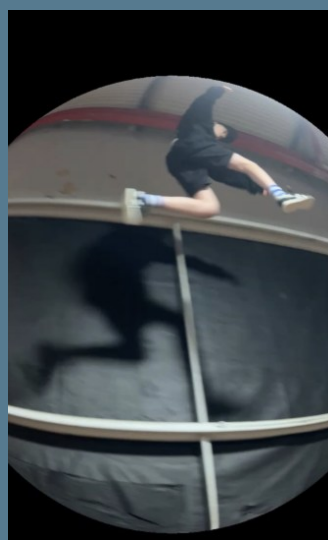
understanding of careers and the skills needed for a successful working life.

I would also like to take a moment to celebrate some outstanding individual achievements:

Lilah E will be competing in the *World Irish Dancing Championships* in Killarney, Ireland during the Easter holidays—an incredible accomplishment. Even more impressively, on St Patrick's Day, Lilah danced for over 10 hours, entertaining residents across six care homes, as well as performing in two additional displays. This is a wonderful example of dedication, talent, and community spirit.



Percy K recently took part in a parkour competition. The level of skill, strength, and determination required for this is truly impressive, and I am extremely proud of his achievement.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

As Head of both Year 7 and 8, it is a real honour and privilege. Please do

continue to share student success stories with me as I love to hear about the achievements outside of school.

Mrs Haycock

Head of Years 7 & 8



Year 9

Year 9 have had a brilliant and productive term, showing real maturity as they begin preparing for the next stage of their school journey.

A major highlight has been the GCSE Options process. Students approached the launch with curiosity and ambition, asking thoughtful questions about their futures and the subjects that inspire them. It was fantastic to see 100% of option forms returned, showing how seriously they have taken this important decision.



In lessons, staff have been impressed with the focus and determination Year 9 are showing as they continue developing the key skills needed for GCSE study. Many students are already demonstrating strong analytical thinking, resilience in challenging work, and the confidence to share their ideas.

This term has also seen students engaging positively in tutor time activities, including careers discussions, reading, and personal development sessions. These conversations are helping them start thinking about their ambitions beyond school and the steps needed to achieve them.

Most importantly, Year 9 continue to demonstrate the values of the MECE community through kindness, teamwork and supporting one another. Staff have commented on the positive atmosphere across the year group and the way students are stepping up as role models for younger pupils.

Year 9 should feel proud of the way they have approached this term. The choices they are making now are the foundation for their future success, and we are excited to see them continue to grow and thrive.

Year 10

Year 10 have shown real maturity and commitment this term as they move further into their GCSE courses.

One of the most important moments this term was the PPE launch, where students were introduced to the expectations of the exam season ahead. It was excellent to see students engaging seriously with advice about revision strategies, organisation and preparing for assessments.

Across lessons, teachers have noted how Year 10

students are beginning to show the focus and independence required for GCSE success. Many are taking greater responsibility for their learning, asking insightful questions, and demonstrating perseverance when tackling challenging work.

Students have also been developing valuable study habits during tutor time, including learning about effective revision techniques and “making learning stick.” These skills will be essential as they approach their upcoming assessments and begin preparing for Year 11.

Beyond the classroom, Year 10 continue to represent the school with pride. Their attitude, leadership, and willingness to support younger students helps maintain the strong culture within our community.

Year 10 are at a crucial stage in their education, and it has been encouraging to see so many students stepping up and embracing the challenge. If they continue with this focus and determination, they are setting themselves up for real success in the months ahead.

Miss Jackson
Head of Years 9 & 10

Year 11

It’s been another great term for Year 11 who are quickly approaching their GCSEs! With a new term, came a new round of PPE exams to ready them for the summer, and they exceeded all expectations. As a cohort there was a huge increase in passes across the board in all 3 subjects (English, maths and science) with science experiencing a 400% increase. With this momentum, there is huge hope for the outcomes this summer.

Some students have already started their GCSEs with Art, food tech and BTEC sport all having exams, practicals, or submitting coursework this term!

Students are also continuing the preparations for prom with a bake sale to raise money in the final week of term!.

And once again, Year 11 are the role models that are needed around the school site. So many students are involved in extra curricular activities like the school show or sports teams, and they set an amazing example for the younger years with the commitments to their studies by attending interventions weekly.

Mr Mount
Head of Year 11

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



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



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

