



24 April 2026

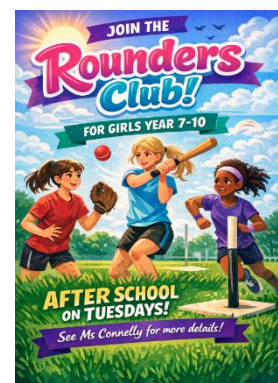
Dear parents,

What a wonderfully sunny week we've enjoyed and it looks as though the weekend will be just as gorgeous too - hurrah!

A very special mention this week goes to Mrs Chalk, who is taking on the London Marathon in aid of a local charity, raising just shy of £3000 for the cause. We are all right behind you, wishing you the very best of luck for the event this weekend!

Last Saturday our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students were on site completing more of their pre-expedition training. Huge thanks go to Mr Caldwell, Ms Connolly and Mrs Jenkins for giving up their time and offering such fantastic support. Silver DofE training has also officially begun, with the first session putting map skills and teamwork to the test through an orienteering challenge.

I wanted to share details of some new PE clubs that are getting started this term – details below. Being involved in something active, outside and as part of teams has so many benefits – please do encourage your sons & daughters to explore the full range of what is on offer. I am also really pleased to have renewed our link with Henley Rowing Club, with two groups of students heading out onto the Thames each week to develop their rowing skills. Mr Caldwell has mentioned that there are still a couple of spaces available in the Wednesday group – if your child is interested, please contact him for further details.



On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome our incoming Year 7 families for the Year 6 Social – a relaxed opportunity to visit the school, meet other parents and students, and start getting a feel for life at MECE ahead of September. As ever, a massive thank you to staff and the many current students who volunteered their time to help. They created a wonderfully nurturing and welcoming atmosphere, and it was lovely to see that real sense of belonging already beginning to take shape. Thank you to CESA for their support on this evening too where refreshments were served and sold pre-loved uniform.



CESA's annual Quiz is on the horizon (8 May). This is always a fantastic evening of quizzing and lots of laughter too – with rounds that will test your knowledge on KS2 SATS, the West End, abbreviations and of course some General Knowledge too. Sign up details can be found on the poster below:



The same weekend is the Sonning Common annual charity bike ride “On Yer Bike” taking place on Sunday 10 May. We’re hoping for a strong showing from MECE staff and families, whether that’s taking part on bikes, volunteering on the day, or being part of the official cheer squad! Mr Caldwell is coordinating the MECE presence and would be grateful if you could complete this form [On Your Bike- Sponsored Bike Ride Sunday 10th May – Fill in form](#) if you and your family are intending to be part of the day. Plans are underway for a MECE cheering station with music, a BBQ for supporters, and drinks and snacks to help keep riders fuelled – so even if cycling isn’t your thing there are lots of ways to support this wonderful community event.

Congratulations to Year 11, who have now completed their French speaking. Mrs **Yaucat-Guendi** was absolutely buzzing with pride at the end of the two days and was delighted with how the students performed. With written exams now almost upon us – beginning from 5 May – it has been very encouraging to see attendance at Science and Maths after-school support sessions reaching an all-time high this week.

Before we reach those exams, Year 10 will be undertaking their PPEs next week. These provide an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their progress and to begin some serious thought about life beyond Year 11. Many students have embraced revision and, refreshingly, several have openly shared that they’re looking forward to the exam week as a chance to show just how hard they’ve been working.

This week we also launched Student Leadership Opportunities for 2026 with our current Year 10 cohort. Students learned about the wide range of roles available, the skills and character traits required, and the application process itself. I’m really looking forward to sharing an update with you on our new student leadership team before half term.

Two of our Y10 students have celebrated Maths Olympiad results that have been received in school this week. David and Dylan qualified for the Kangaroo stage following their exceptional performance earlier in the year in the UK Maths Challenge. Congratulations to both boys who have earned themselves a Gold (David) and Silver (Dylan) Award.

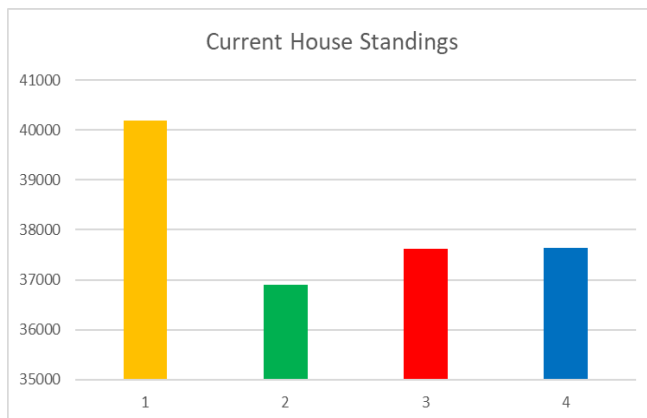




Yesterday also saw our termly House Assemblies, where students were congratulated for earning positive points through excellent classwork, homework, and participation in clubs and activities. There was also praise for students who looked smart and in full uniform – a thank you to parents for supporting our plea to address this from last week. We also launched our fundraising plans for the summer term where Houses will be tasked with coming up with ideas to raise money for local causes. The overall theme of the assemblies was about recognising small steps of success and using them to motivate yourself for the day.



The current House standings are as follows:



The students topping each House in each year group – congratulations to them all:

Abbey: Y7 Athina, Y8 Charlotte, Y9 Achintha, Y10 Libby and Y11 Qasim

Chiltern: Y7 Sable, Y8 Anushka, Y9 Lucy W, Y10 Gerry and Y11 Ruby-Rae

Peppard: Y7 Laxita, Y8 Leathan, Y9 Jayden, Y10 Deanna and Y11 Toby H

Thames: Y7 Hazel, Y8 Leo, Y9 Amelie, Y10 Mal, Y11 Harry

This week, I'd also like to give a special shout-out to the 91 students who have scored in excess of 25 House points by Friday morning and the 175 students who are currently sitting on a 100% positive to negative points ratio for the week – a huge well done on to all on this achievement.

And finally, an early heads up that during the exam period there are a handful of days when we have to adjust the timings of the day to accommodate afternoon GCSE exams. On the 8 and 12 May we will bring lunch forward to 12.35pm (i.e. after Period 3) and Periods 4 and 5 will run after lunch on these days. There will continue to be a full canteen service, just an hour earlier than normal. We will remind students in the days before of this change.

As always, thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a very enjoyable weekend ahead.

Kind regards



E Bliss
Headteacher



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.

