



22 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

An exciting future for Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge

Over the past year, Maiden Erlegh Trust has been working on plans for the future of Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. We are now able to share our vision and first stage of those plans with you.

At their heart is a clear commitment to Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge (MECE) as a mainstream secondary school.

Small school, big heart

Our plans build on what already makes MECE distinctive: high academic expectations with strong support, great enrichment and wider opportunities, and a close-knit community where students are known well and receive excellent preparation for their post-16 steps.

As you know, MECE is in a wonderful rural location. This brings many benefits for our students, but the local area is also experiencing demographic change and fewer secondary-age children. Student numbers at MECE have reduced over recent years and the school has had to adapt.

Having experienced smaller student numbers for some time, we have seen first-hand the benefits a smaller secondary school can offer. Large secondary schools work brilliantly for many young people, but they are not the best fit for everyone.

At MECE, smaller numbers combined with our large, green site create a distinctive environment: a close-knit community where students are known well, relationships are strong and there is space to learn and develop. We now want to build deliberately on those strengths.

Our vision is for MECE to become a thriving two-form-entry secondary school, firmly focused on high academic expectations and strong support. Students will continue to benefit from great enrichment and wider opportunities, with excellent preparation for their future.

Importantly, MECE has the strength of Maiden Erlegh Trust behind it. As part of our wider family of schools, MECE has access to expertise, resources and opportunities that extend beyond its size.

Chiltern Education Hub

As MECE becomes a two-form-entry secondary school, we also want to ensure students continue to benefit from a great range of opportunities. We already have a successful model to build on: MECE shares its large site with Bishopswood School and Kingfisher Nursery.



Our vision is to extend this existing campus model by introducing additional education to the site and creating Chiltern Education Hub, with MECE at its heart.

MECE will remain the main school on the site and firmly at the heart of the Hub, continuing to share the site, as it does now, with additional small scale educational provision from Maiden Erlegh Trust. Our vision includes alternative provision: specialist vocational courses, small-group and one-to-one tutoring, and Forest School.

Each setting will retain its own identity, while MECE students will also be able to benefit from some of the additional opportunities and expertise available through the alternative provision.

Investment starts spring 2027

I am delighted to confirm that new capital investment in MECE and the wider site will begin in spring 2027. The first phase will include the development of spaces for the new educational provision.

Further investment is planned as the Hub develops, including improvements to MECE's sports facilities. Some of these later plans are linked to the proposed land sale and will progress as that process is completed.

What does this mean for MECE students and families?

For current MECE students, the focus remains the same: great education, high academic expectations, strong support and great opportunities.

Chiltern Education Hub will develop in phases. We will share plans and practical information as each stage develops, and I will write to you again when there are meaningful updates to share.

Ultimately, our ambition is straightforward: great education and more opportunities for young people. MECE is an important part of Maiden Erlegh Trust, and we are committed to investing in its future and the opportunities available to its students.

We would also welcome your help in sharing these plans with the wider community. You can support us by sharing the attached flyer, sharing our social media posts or displaying a poster in a local community venue. If you are able to help with distributing posters, please let us know by emailing the school office.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge.

Yours sincerely



Jonathon Peck
Chief Executive Officer
Maiden Erlegh Trust

