



09 October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I think we can all agree that autumn has well and truly arrived, and the lovely extended spell of warm sunshine is now behind us for 2026. The time has certainly come to switch the heating back on at home and dig out the winter coats for the months ahead! Despite the rain and wind, spirits in school remain high and positive.

Before sharing this week's updates, I wanted to say thank you for the support you continue to show the school. Many parents have shared our recent good news stories through their own social media channels, helping us celebrate student success with a wider audience. Your advocacy for the school is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank families for supporting the introduction of our phone pouches this term. Students have adapted exceptionally well, and the transition has been far smoother than many had anticipated. Interestingly, a number of students have commented that they appreciate having a break from their phones during the school day and not feeling the pressure to constantly check messages and notifications. It has been encouraging to hear such positive feedback and to see students making the most of the opportunities to engage with friends, learning and wider school life.

Fruit for All

One of the biggest successes this term has been the free fruit available to students at break time. Over the summer, Mrs Marden worked on a successful application with Tesco which secured £5,000 worth of fruit and vegetables for the school.

It has been wonderful to see so many students choosing an apple or banana as a healthy snack during the day. We all know the importance of healthy eating, particularly as we head into the winter months, and the popularity of the scheme has been fantastic.

Here's hoping Tesco (or perhaps another supermarket!) allows multiple applications, because at the current rate we may well have eaten our way through the first grant by Christmas!

House Assemblies and House Points

On Wednesday, students attended their first House Assembly of the year, centred around our theme of "**Aim High**". Heads of House shared stories of people whose ambition and determination had inspired them, including Jude Bellingham and Ilona Maher, alongside some of their own achievements and interests. The message was clear: have a go, get involved, and aim high in whatever you choose to pursue.

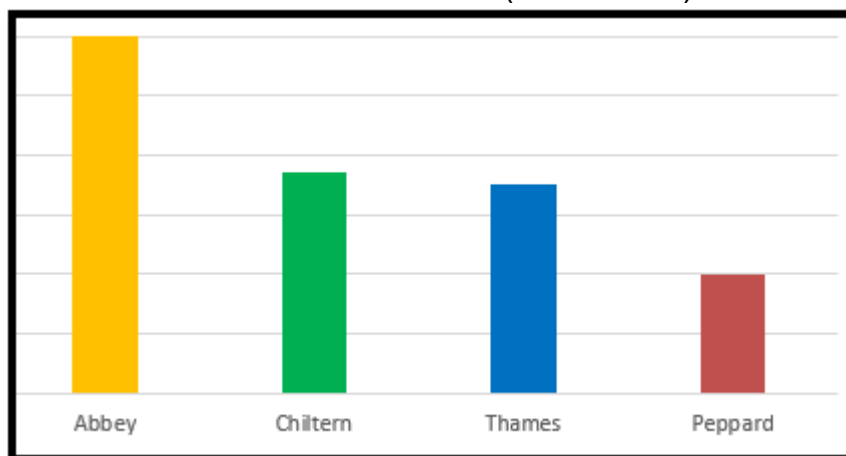
This year we are delighted to welcome Mrs Skitt and Miss Peake as the new Heads of House for Abbey and Peppard respectively. They join Ms Dunn (Thames) and Mr Mount



(Chiltern) in leading our House system. A special shout out goes to Mr Mav who found a yellow tie to match his House colours.



Current House Point totals stand at (for this term):



A fantastic start from Mrs Skitt and Abbey House. However, there is still plenty of time for the other Houses to catch our early leaders!



Our top House Point scorers this week were:

Year 7: Esme, Aaron, Rachel and Henry

Year 8: Vi, Oli K and Athina

Year 9: Percy, Molly, Sophia, Hanna and Ronny

Year 10: Hannah, Ernie and Alexandria

Year 11: Poppy E, Mal and Kitty

Across the school, an incredible **75 students earned more than 25 House Points this week**, equating to at least one positive point in every lesson. A tremendous achievement.

Attendance

We have seen the usual seasonal illnesses beginning to appear, but overall attendance remains very positive and is around **2% higher than at the same point last year**.

Congratulations to the following tutor groups who achieved attendance above 92% this week:

11B, 11C, 10A, 10C, 8A, 8B, 8C, 7A and 7C

A special mention goes to **Year 8**, who topped the attendance table this week with an impressive **96.7% attendance**. Superb resilience and commitment.

With just two weeks remaining until half term, I hope we can maintain this excellent start and finish the term with similarly strong attendance figures.

Looking Ahead

There is certainly no slowing down over the next two weeks. Students across all year groups continue to build on their learning and make excellent progress through their curriculum.

For **Year 11**, preparations for the PPE examination period are gathering pace, with a launch assembly taking place on Monday. Students will also receive their first progress report before half term, providing valuable insight into their current attainment and progress.

In the final week of term, Year 11 students will take part in our annual **Mock Interview Day**, giving them valuable experience ahead of applications and interviews for post-16 destinations. Ms Dunn and the wider team have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure the day runs smoothly, and I would like to thank those parents and community volunteers who have generously offered their time to support this important event. Next week we also look forward to welcoming prospective Year 7 families to two further Open Mornings. Following a hugely successful Open Evening and our recent information evening at The Heights, we are excited to showcase the opportunities and experiences that our school offers.

My leadership team will also be spending time in lessons throughout the week. One of the greatest privileges of school leadership is seeing learning in action, and I always enjoy visiting classrooms, speaking with students and seeing the excellent work being



produced across the school. I look forward to sharing some examples of that work with you in next week's update.

And finally – on Monday evening CESA, our wonderful Parent Association are holding the AGM. This meeting also serves to discuss events and priorities for the year. All are welcome and ideas gratefully received. Details can be found on the flyer attached.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. Together, we have made a tremendously positive start to the academic year, and I am excited to see what our students can achieve over the weeks and months ahead.

Have a wonderful weekend.



Miss E Bliss
Headteacher



Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge

PSA

AGM

MEETING



Monday 12th October
18.30 till 19.30



New members welcome



**At Maiden Erlegh
Chiltern Edge**
Reades Lane
Sonning Common

Get involved
Make a difference

