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

23 October 2026

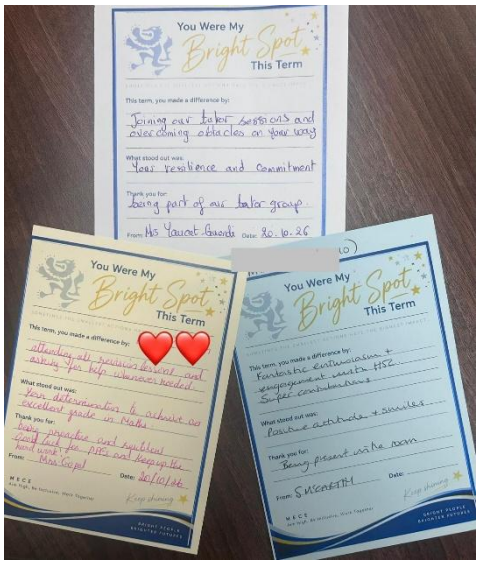
Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of a busy seven-week term, I think we can all agree that it has been an excellent start to the academic year—full of opportunities, achievements, and memorable moments. It has been a rewarding few weeks, but I suspect many of us are also looking forward to a few days where no alarm clock or school bell dictates our timetable!

This week, I had the pleasure of hosting two *Hot Chocolate with the Head* celebration mornings. The first welcomed students nominated by their tutors as Tutee of the Term, and the second celebrated our highest monthly House Point scorers for September and October. It was wonderful to hear students reflecting on their highlights from the term, talking enthusiastically about favourite lessons, and sharing their plans for the break. Unsurprisingly, those plans included lots of sleep, a little Halloween dressing up, and plenty more opportunities for hot chocolate!

Alongside these celebrations, every year group enjoyed a dedicated celebration assembly led by their Head of Year. These events recognised students' achievements through House Points, strong attendance, and positive contributions, while also spotlighting those who have made an exceptional start to life at MECE this year.

To help capture and celebrate these successes across the school, staff and students have also been completing 'Bright Spots' throughout the week. These are simple acknowledgements of something they felt proud of this term or a note of thanks to someone who has made a positive difference. Members of the Leadership Team thoroughly enjoyed playing postmaster today, delivering these messages across the school. Reading the breadth of positive impact, kindness, and gratitude reflected in these notes has been genuinely uplifting and fills me with immense pride.



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.

Other highlights this week included a lovely *Tea and Cake Thank You Event* in the staff room, kindly provided by Reach, who run our Christian Union sessions each Thursday. Their ongoing support of our school community is greatly appreciated.

Yesterday lunchtime, it was also wonderful to see a classroom full of keen Year 10 mathematicians embarking on the additional knowledge required for the Further Maths Qualification, coordinated by Mrs Gopal and her team. Well over a third of the year group have shown interest in pursuing this: “Aiming High” in its truest form!

Meanwhile, Year 11 students have continued their Prom fundraising efforts with a successful cake and sweets sale, alongside preparing for this week's Mock Interview Day. This fantastic initiative sees volunteers from our local community, members of the Trust team, and Governors giving their time to conduct one-to-one interviews with every Year 11 student. Students prepared CVs beforehand and took part in interviews focused on their strengths, skills, and future aspirations before receiving personalised feedback.

A huge thank you goes to Mr Clark and Ms Dunn for coordinating the event, and to all the volunteers who generously gave their time and expertise to support our students.





As part of their post-16 preparation, a group of Year 11 students also visited Piggott Sixth Form on Tuesday, meeting the Head of Year 12 and current students to learn more about sixth form life and course options. Many students also attended the Highdown Sixth Form Open Evening this week. Looking ahead, all Year 11 students will have the opportunity to experience college life during the Henley College Student Day in November following their PPE examinations.

Finally, thank you for all your lovely comments, emails, and phone calls regarding our entry into this year's Sonning Common Scarecrow Trail. Our *Matilda*-themed scarecrow has certainly attracted plenty of attention, prompting several passers-by to pop into reception to share how fantastic it looks!

We did share a gentle laugh when one particularly end-of-term-tired Year 11 student briefly thought a younger pupil was being swung by her hair! Thankfully, he was very relieved to discover that was not the case.

You can complete the full Sonning Common Scarecrow Trail and vote for your favourites by collecting a map and entry form from the Co-op in Sonning Common (details on the poster below). If one trail isn't enough, Woodcote Village is also hosting its own trail organised by the local Scouts group, with details on the second poster.







On behalf of everyone at MECE, thank you for your continued partnership and support throughout this fantastic first half term. We have packed a huge amount into these seven weeks, and there is so much to be proud of.

I wish all of our students, families, and staff a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 3 November.

Have a wonderful half term,

Miss 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.

Aim High
Be Inclusive
Work Together



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.