



Reades Lane, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9LN Tel: 0118 9721500

Message from Richard Hawthorne Acting Head of School

Welcome to our first MECEmatters newsletter - we hope you enjoy it. This half term has been extremely busy and productive with a range of classroom and enrichment activities alongside numerous events.

I'd like formally to welcome our new staff and students to the school, and congratulate them for settling in so well.

Among our events this term, was the Open Evening and Open Mornings we hosted for prospective Y7 students. I must express how proud I am of the students who have hosted tours and spoken so eloquently to visitors over the last few weeks. Even when undoubtedly tired on the last Thursday of term when we hosted an extra Open Morning due to high demand. The MECE family has a number of fantastic qualities, not least the students. What visitors comment on is how polite and kind the students are, but also their desire to learn and do well. Sumeria, our Adviza consultant who has been conducting careers interviews with Y11 students told us "I really looked forward to Mondays working with your Y11 students. It has been great to hear their ideas and guide them into looking at a range of post-16 options."

This term all the students have set their own targets and shown great aspiration – this is excellent. It is, therefore, important that students remember some key basics, summed up in our two mottos: **"opportunity, diversity and success for all"** and **"qui veut peut"** (which I see as having a **"can-do"** attitude).

1. Do your best, no one expects perfection but doing the minimum will not lead to strong progress in these "terminal exams" (and will lead to greater pressure at exam times).
2. Be the best person you can be – be kind, thoughtful and respectful of others, and yourself.
3. Seize the day – take up the opportunities on offer here, push yourself out of your comfort zone a little (who knows what you might discover and what new friends you might make).

Every day I walk around school, I see students doing their best, being positive members of our community and getting involved.

I'll leave you with one final quote from a Maiden Erlegh Trustee who recently told me *"Spending time in school over the past week has allowed us to really see the wonderful school that MECE is. The staff and students have been welcoming and helpful and we look forward to spending more time here over the coming months."*

Well done every one on a fantastic first half term. Have a well-earned rest over the break – well deserved!

CALENDAR

28 October – 1 November	Half Term
4 – 11 November	Y11 PPE1 (all subjects)
6 November	PE Rewards Trip – Coral Reef
8 November	Y7 – Y10 Triathlon
11 November	Remembrance Day
11- 15 November	Anti-bullying week
13 November	Y7-10 South Oxon Cross Country
14 November	Y11 Henley College Experience
15 November	CESA Quiz
18 November	INSET
21 November	Presentation Evening
27 November	Y11 Parents' Evening
17 - 19 December	School Production – Oliver!

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

We are extremely proud of our students who took part in their first "Student Own Target" sessions. It was excellent to see so much ambition in our students and these targets will help them and their teachers stay on track so that they reach their potential.

You can find out about how assessment and reporting works at the school by reading the information on our website using this [LINK](#)

EPIC RISK MANAGEMENT

Y11 Gambling & Addiction Awareness Session

Earlier in the term Y11 attended a session led by Scott Davies from Epic Risk Management. Scott spoke about his first-hand experience with gambling and how it had impacted his career as a professional footballer. Y11 were captivated by Scott's story and engaged fantastically with the session. The year group commented on how much they had taken away from the afternoon and how beneficial it had been for them.

ALTER EGO CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

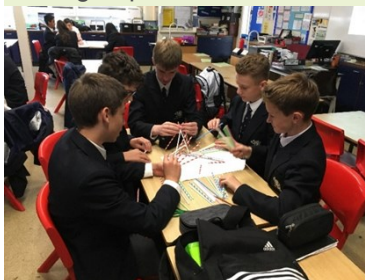
Y7 and Y8 County lines production

Earlier in the term Y7 and Y8 had a performance from an outside team of actors highlighting the signs and dangers of county lines activity. The students really enjoyed the hard hitting session and this led to some great discussions about how to keep yourself safe, during tutor time.



Humanities Spotlight—KS4 Geography

Y10 have got off to a fantastic start to their Geography GCSE course. Both groups have shown enthusiasm and commitment to their studies.

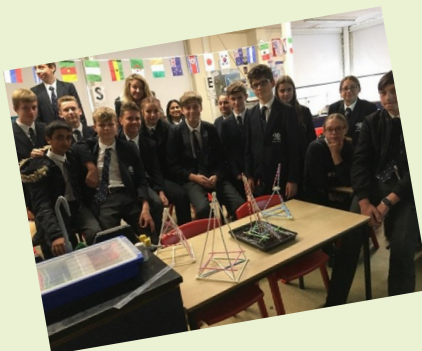


Over the past two weeks students have been investigating how countries reduce the impact of natural hazards and designing their own earthquake proof buildings. I am pleased to report that all of their designs survived the jelly table!

They have also been showing their understanding of the Global Atmospheric Circulation model by successfully completing the 6 minute balloon challenge.

We have been closely tracking **Typhoon Hagibis** and its impact on Japan and the Rugby World Cup. Check this website out and do the same:

<https://earth.nullschool.net> Keep up the excellent work Year 10!



Y11 have now completed the compulsory field-work requirements for the GCSE course. After a successful visit to the south coast in June they travelled to Henley on Thames a couple of weeks ago. The aim of their investigation was to see if tourism has an economic impact on the town. The group were given a presentation by Helen Barnett in the historic surroundings of The King's Arms Barn. Helen's talk was very informative and certainly got across the message that Henley, a town of 10 000 people, punches well above its weight as far as tourism is concerned. Afterwards, the group carried out a land use transect in the town centre and interviewed both locals and tourists, many of whom were attending the Literary Festival.



Many thanks to Year 11 for being such great company on the day, Henley College for allowing us to park the minibus on their site, Helen Barnett for her presentation, Elaine Ely for accompanying the trip and organising the presentation, Rebecca Boys for helping with transport and Christina Fernside for all the support with the organisation of the trip.

Y7 Mentoring Programme

Y7 have had a fantastic start to life at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. It has been brilliant to see so many students attending extra-curricular activities and supporting at school events. As part of the transition process each Y7 student was given a mentor from Y8-11 who they met with weekly during the first half of term. The atmosphere during these sessions was lovely and it has been great to see so many positive relationships being developed across different year groups. Y7 have settled in very well and we look forward to seeing how they develop and progress over the course of the academic year.



MFL



Guess where this was found?

On the book of one of our Y9s! In French we were very impressed with the effort and dedication to make an exercise book look great.

We like to encourage students to be proud of their books, use them as revision tools and act on feedback given. We would also recommend that

books are covered with sticky-back plastic to avoid wet books following a deluge of rain or water bottle leaks.

Well done to all students who used their creative skills to make their French stand out!

Y7 Friday French Club

This will start after the half-term break and will be led by a mix of teachers and KS4 students. Come along and play some games and learn a few words along the way. If you have any great ideas of things to do in the future, please let us know.

Mrs Foster, Head of Languages
Ms Biddiss, Teacher of French



from daughter to woman



PARENTING GIRLS SAFELY THROUGH THEIR TEENS

Kim McCabe

'Parenting girls (or children) safely through their teens'

Monday 11th November

7.00pm-8.45pm

St. Crispin's Main Hall

Attendance is free of charge. Tickets are [available here](#)

Due to their being limited seating, tickets are on a first come first served basis through the above link. Unfortunately we will only be able to admit those with a pre-booked seat.

Join Kim McCabe, author of 'From Daughter To Woman' as she discusses practical ways to make your child's journey through adolescence safer, kinder and better supported, to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

Do not miss this opportunity to reflect on your parenting and gain some tips to forge the kind of relationships you want with your children, even when things get tough. Teenagers are great people and in spite of all the reports on how teens are running into serious difficulties, you can have a great time parenting one through this wonderful stage of life.

For any queries email - parentconference@crispins.co.uk

Y11 Revision Morning

Y11 had a bespoke revision session run for them on a carousel of activities teaching them how to revise, organise their time and manage stress ahead of their Pre Public Examinations (PPEs).

The students were excellent and were actively engaged in the sessions. They were each given a revision book with planning aids to take home with them.

How can we learn vocabulary?

Read, say, look, cover, check; post-it notes, lists of words, put words in sentences. There are many methods. The key is to learn regularly. It is great too if students can be tested by someone at home.

One great online app for vocabulary learning is: Quizlet <https://quizlet.com>

All students studying French or German should have created a logon to quizlet by now so they can access sets of words and phrases recently studied (or for flipped learning). Anyone can make their own revision sets using this too. Students should join their class be logged on every time they use it. Links have been given on SMHW. Please note: names should be recognisable but not necessarily their first and last name. Many students are already making use of this app and we can see who has logged in and who has the top scores. Some other subjects make use of this too.

Child ADULT

VIOLENCE
AGAINST

16th
NOV
2019
12-3pm

FREE ADMISSION
to the general public

WOKINGHAM TOWN HALL: DIAMOND JUBILEE ROOM

Are you or your loved one a victim of
Child Violence?
Are you feeling isolated and frightened to speak up
and get some support?
Come, let's explore how you could get practical support
with your child's behaviour from survivors

Workshop delivered by
Experienced Child Practitioners and
Survivors of Child to Adult Abuse



hosted by



follow us on **facebook**

www.vrisesocialworkconsultancy.com

Is your child violent towards you or a loved one?

If this applies to you and you would benefit from advice and support then you may be interested in this event in Wokingham which is free of charge.

For further information contact

info@vrisesocialworkconsultancy.com

UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge

The Maths department is very pleased to announce that the Maths Challenge will once again take place at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge!!

The Maths Challenge is run by the UK Mathematics trust and is supported by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. The aim of the challenge is to stimulate students' mathematical thinking and test their problem solving skills in an accessible and yet challenging way.

The Intermediate Maths Challenge is primarily aimed at students in Y9 and 10 and will be sat in school on Thursday 6 February 2020. There will also be a Junior Maths Challenge later in the academic year and further details will follow closer to the time.

SONNING



Sonning Common Youth Club takes place above the sports hall on Tuesday (Y9-11, 7-9pm) and Wednesday (Y6-8, 6.30-8.30pm). We offer lots of fun activities including swegway riding, baking, multi-sports, table tennis, pool etc- and all of this comes for an entry fee of only £1!

The youth club is run under the umbrella guidance of Sonning Common Parish Council and Oxfordshire Youth; all staff members are DBS checked and safeguarding trained: the club has the Ambition Quality service award for recognising quality youth clubs. Pop along to join us and 'like' our facebook page for all the latest info:

<https://www.facebook.com/sonningcommonyouthclub/>



Have your Christmas jumpers ready for
Christmas Jumper Day on **Friday 13 December 2019**
in aid of Save the Children - details to follow.



Sexual Development in Children

As children get older, the way they express their sexual feelings changes. There is no doubt that children are exposed to sexual images at a far younger age and in more places than ever before, including music videos, websites and social media. So it's not surprising that sometimes children's sexual development can seem out of step with their age.

It's important that you have a good idea of what is normal sexual behaviour and can also spot the warning signs if something might not be quite right.

The NSPCC provides information for parents of children of all ages which helps explain what is usual at each stage of development [HERE](#)



ALL CITIZENS OF THE WORLD
CAN SAVE A LIFE



#RestartaHeart
16 October 2018

World restart a heart day at MECE

Our school was selected by the South Central Ambulance Service to celebrate in the **Worldwide Restart a Heart (RSAH) Campaign** in order to raise awareness for Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). 3 Paramedics spent the day with our students in Ys 7,8 & 9 teaching them about CPR and assisting them in learning how to restart a heart. As a school we are extremely proud to have former student Kirsten Willis return as one of the Paramedics to pass on her knowledge to our younger students. Kirsten was recognised in the 2018 New Years Honours list with a British Empire Medal for her services to NHS Leadership.

We asked the students to donate to

the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust by arriving at school in non-uniform. Altogether we raised nearly £500. We are so pleased with the combined effort we plan to present the cheque to Kirsten Willis to celebrate in the near future

It was lovely to receive feedback from the Paramedics about how much they enjoyed spending the day with our students and the good behaviour all our students displayed during their sessions.

Congratulations to the students on learning a worthwhile skill.



Paramedic (and former student) Kirsten Willis pictured with MECE students



Performing Arts

Oliver!

Rehearsals are well underway for our musical this year of Oliver! Our students are getting into character and the rehearsals are going well- a show not to be missed!

A reminder that performers are required to have their lines and lyrics learnt by the time we come back after half term. Band rehearsals will be on a Monday after school until 4pm.

Whole cast rehearsals will be in the main hall.
Extra lunchtime rehearsals to be arranged as necessary.

November	Rehearsal Schedule (3:10pm — 5:00pm)		
6 th	TH – Meeting	Oom-pah-pah	Oom-pah-pah
7 th	Act 2		Year 11 dancers
13 th – Whole cast	Who will buy?	Who will buy?	Who will buy?
14 th	Act 2		Year 10 dancers
20 st - Whole Cast	Finale	Finale	Finale
21 st in PA department	Act 1		Year 11 and 10 dancers
26 th (Tuesday)	Oom-pah-pah, who will buy and finale	Oom-pah-pah, who will buy and finale	Oom-pah-pah, who will buy and finale
28 th	Act 2		
December			
4 th	All chorus numbers	All chorus numbers	All chorus numbers
5 th	Full run through		
11 th	Full run through		
14 th and 15 th	WEEKEND REHEARSAL		
16, 17 and 18 th	SHOW		



This term has started off with great success in Performing Arts. We have seen the new term start with some fantastic acting, dancing and music making from our students. Also, after a series of floods in the Drama Studio, we are excited to be having a new floor and hope to be back in soon - the show must go on!



GCSE Trip to Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford

On Wednesday 9 October, Miss Fay and Mrs Ely took our Y10 and Y11 GCSE Music group to watch a chamber concert in the famous and beautiful Sheldonian theatre in Oxford. We were one of many schools there and we took part in singing a Swedish folk song, and listened to Hans Andersen's tale of the Snow Queen, with a startling, exciting soundtrack improvised live by OCMF's brilliant musicians.

How can I help my child at home?

Parents often ask us "how can I help my child at home"? We have some advice on our website [here](#). These booklets are being reviewed so may change over the next few weeks.

There are three very important ways you can help your child with their studies:

1. Encourage them to read as much as possible. Reading helps develop vocabulary and improve spelling and grammar. It also means that they are more confident across the whole curriculum.
2. Encourage them to organise their time so they complete their homework on time and to the best of their ability.
3. Ask them about what they are learning about in different subjects.

PE Review

It's been a very busy, but exciting start to the academic year for the PE department. We have, in total, had 32 fixtures across all year groups, in three different sports this term.

Y7s have had their first fixtures for MECE and have represented the school amazingly. The girls played in the South Oxfordshire School Games hockey tournament at Gillotts School coming fifth and the boys have competed in the Reading rugby league.

Year 8 rugby boys have also had a strong start to the season and are currently sitting second in the league after wins against Prospect, The Wren, Maiden Erlegh Reading. With four fixtures left fingers crossed the boys can get the results to qualify for the playoff on 7 November at Reading Abbey RFC.

Fixture Update

Y10 and 11s have started their rugby season strongly with 5 wins from 5 games scoring a massive 139 points and only conceding 7. It is looking good for the boys making the finals on 5 November at Reading RFC. See the picture below of the team sporting the new MECE Rugby Kit!

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U16 Girls football team have competed in the Reading Football League and finishing mid table in sixth place. Well done to all the girls involved and a special mention to Sajunae who played amazingly in the fixtures despite playing up an age group.

U14 girls football league has just started with the girls winning against Prospect School and losing to a strong Denefield side. The girls now have fixtures coming up on Thursday's after school against The Abbey School, Blessed Hugh Faringdon, Little Heath School, The Wren and Highdown.

Day	Date	Month	Sport	Gender	Age Group	Venue
Thursday	7	November	Football	Girls	Year 8/9	MECE
Friday	8	November	Triathlon	Girls	Year 8/9	MECE
				Boys	Year 8/9	
				Girls	Year 10/11	
				Boys	Year 10/11	
Thursday	14	November	Football	Girls	Year 7	Bulmershe
Tuesday	19	November	X - Country	Girls	Year 7	Gillotts
				Boys	Year 7	
				Girls	Year 8/9	
				Boys	Year 8/9	
				Girls	Year 10/11	
				Boys	Year 10/11	
Tuesday	19	November	Football	Girls	Year 7	Bulmershe
Thursday	21	November	Football	Girls	Year 7	Bohunt
Tuesday	26	November	Badminton	Center Parcs boys & girls	U14 boys & girls	Icknield
Thursday	28	November	Badminton	Center Parcs boys & girls	U16 boys & girls	Icknield
Thursday	28	November	Football	Girls	Year 7	Oakbank
Tuesday	3	December	Indoor Rowing	Mixed	U13	Icknield
Tuesday	3	December	Indoor Rowing	Mixed	U15	Icknield
Thursday	5	December	Football	Girls	Year 7	Oakbank



Primary School Cross Country

On the morning of Saturday 5 October, MECE hosted the South Oxfordshire Primary Schools winter series cross country event which was attended by 100s of students in Y1 to 6. It was a fantastic morning which was well represented by the local primary schools. A massive thank you to CESA for organising and running the café and to all the staff and students who volunteered to make the morning possible. The next winter series cross country event that we will be hosting is on **Saturday 9 November**.



PE lessons after half term

The first four lessons of PE after half term will be cross country for Y7–10. Students should come prepared for the weather, with appropriate clothing and foot wear for the conditions. Rain will not stop play!

Physical Education Kit

Well done to the majority of students for a good start to term in having the correct PE kit for your indoor and outdoor PE lessons. There are, however, a number of students who are attending PE lessons in the wrong kit, in particular white socks for indoor PE lessons. Please can this be corrected and also as part of health and safety no jewellery is to be worn during PE lessons. If students cannot remove piercings, tape should be provided to cover the piercings. Please our website for the full list of the kit expectations for Physical Education. Click [HERE](#).

WE NEED YOU TO



VOLUNTEER

Please come and support our school
Parents' Association.

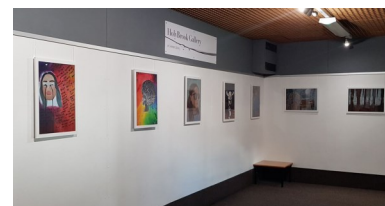
CESA Committee Meeting
Wednesday 6 November @6pm

If you would like to find out more
about how you can support CESA
and MECE please email:
cesasect@yahoo.co.uk.

Art, Design and Technology



After enjoying celebrating the success of the Class of 2019 at both Edge Fest., the Reading Library Showcase, we look forward to such events in the future with so many students starting this half term so strongly. As Head of Department it gives me the opportunity to see students engaging in Art, Food and Technology lessons and producing some amazing outcomes on a daily basis.



**Reading Library Showcase
#Classof2019**

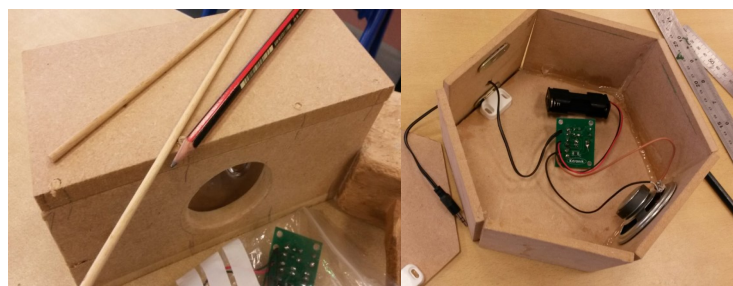


Year 7 colour theory, Year 8 food paintings, Year 9 study of Samantha Bryan and GCSE observational painting.

In Art, Craft & Design we have covered a range of topics from the formal elements of Art in Year 7; the work of Sarah Graham in Year 8; experimenting with figure drawing in Year 9 and looking at festivals and culture in Year 10 and 11.

Food and Nutrition

Our talented young chefs have been creating a range of culinary delights. They have experimented and designed dishes from a range of world cuisines and cultures, while learning about the science behind the menu.



Design & Technology

This year has seen a return to traditional Design & Technology (DT), including more theory and skilled based work preparing our students for GCSE DT and the world of work. Students are currently enjoying developing work in a range of techniques including: pewter casting; laser engraving and CAD skills.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to follow us on Twitter and Instagram for regular updates. Keep making, baking and creating.

Mr Watterson

Head of Art, Design & Technology

@MECEADT

@mechilternedgeadt



Personal development at MECE

The students and staff have to be commended on their commitment to the wider curriculum which means that students have a wealth of opportunities to learn beyond their taught curriculum. This term alone has seen:

- A County Lines Drama Performance for Y7 and 8.
- A "Restart a Heart" day for Y7, 8 and 9 in collaboration with St John's Ambulance.
- A Gambling awareness session for Y11.

In addition:

- The school has run this half term alone: 3 offsite visits and more than 15 sporting fixtures.
- Auditions have started for this year's production of Oliver.
- Y10 work experience has been launched in conjunction with our partner OXLEP.

It is important that extra-curricular activities and trips are run voluntarily by staff and it is exceptional that such an offer is possible in a school like MECE. Thank you to everyone involved.



“Opportunity, diversity and success for all”



CESA - PTA

Friday 15 November

7:00pm for 7:30pm

School Hall - £3 per person (6 people per table)

Book your table by emailing: gillymcgowan@yahoo.co.uk
and pay on the night at the door

Please join us for a fun filled evening in support of your child's school. The more the merrier.

Licensed bar and snacks available plus a raffle

Mr Richard Hawthorne
Cordially invites you to attend a

Parents' Forum

Thursday, 7 November 6:00 – 6:45pm

Topics of discussion:

**Homework Project
Assessment and Reporting**

Spaces are limited. Please let Mrs Allen know if you are attending by emailing headspa@maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk

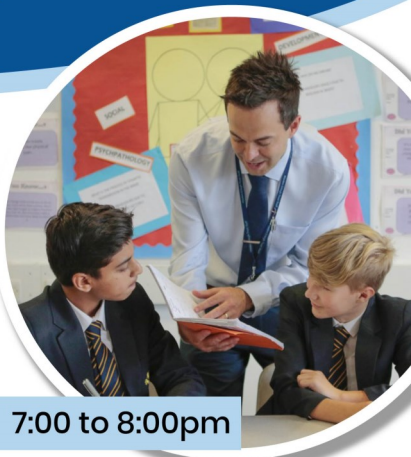


BERKSHIRE
TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE

Are you thinking about kick-starting an exciting new career in teaching?

National Teaching School
designated by
National College for
Teaching & Leadership

TRAIN TO TEACH EVENING



Tuesday 26 November 2019 7:00 to 8:00pm

Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road,
Earley, RG6 7HS

If you have a degree, join us at our Train to Teach evening and find out about the School Direct route into teaching and train at a primary or secondary school in the Reading area.

Come and talk to our existing trainees and NQTs and find out about funding and how to apply.

We work with the University of Reading to provide high quality training and support. Pass rates are high and our schools often retain trainees through to NQT and beyond.

Register for our event by emailing teachingschool@maidenerleghschool.co.uk or get in touch via one of the options below.

0118 926 2467

www.berkshireteachingschoolalliance.co.uk



@berkshiretsa



in partnership with

University of Reading



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@MEChilternEdge

TERM DATES 2019-20

Autumn Term

5 September - 25 October 2019

HALF TERM

4 November - 20 December 2019

Spring Term

6 January - 14 February 2020

HALF TERM

24 February - 3 April 2020

Summer Term

20 April - 22 May 2020

(8 May 2020 - Bank Holiday)

HALF TERM

1 June - 21 July 2020

Professional Development Days

(school closed to students)

3 September 2019

4 September 2019

18 November 2019

29 January 2020

FACILITIES HIRE



We are delighted to be able to offer our facilities for hire to our local community.
Click here for further information.

ParentPay

Click on the ParentPay logo to login and register your account.

Any queries please email us at

ParentPay@maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk



ParentPay

Letters for Parents

www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk/letters-for-parents/

Click here to view recent communications