

MECEmatters

Issue 3 ♦ February 2020



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Message from Andy Hartley Headteacher

The first half term of the Spring term can sometimes be a little miserable, with the cold, dark mornings and low temperatures, however these last six weeks have been anything but for myself and the MECE team. It has been a delight and a pleasure to take up the role of Headteacher in the last 6 weeks and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

The first day of training in January made me feel very welcome and it was clear the staff were up for the challenge and keen to move things forward. It felt like a really nice close-knit team which also boded well. On January 7th meeting the students for the first time was also a little daunting but it was clear that they were a lovely group of young people with good manners and many attributes.

As the term began I have tried to listen to feedback, engage stakeholders and make sure I understand how the school works and over the last few weeks have actioned changes to the areas that I felt needed immediate attention such as some low level disruption in the classroom and uniform. However, where changes have been made it has been great to see the consistency and wholeheartedness with which the staff have engaged with them and also the ease with which almost all the students have embraced these modifications. Staff, parents and students tell me the school is already a much calmer place and we will endeavour to keep working on this to create an atmosphere where all students can progress and prosper.

In addition, I have worked hard meeting local primary school heads, the parish council representatives and other local stakeholders recently and what is really pleasing is how much appetite there is for MECE to become the school of choice for this area once again. I will be re-visiting many of our local feeder schools in

CALENDAR

26 February	Yr9 Parents' Evening & Options
9 March	Henley Youth Festival
w.c. 9 March	Yr11 Core PPE Exams (MOCKS)
9 March	Henley Youth Festival
13 March	Yr9 Options Deadline
19 March	Dip/Polio/Men Vaccinations
19 March	Yr11 trip to Woman in Black
w.c. 23 March	Careers Week
24 March	Yr8 Parents' Evening
25 March	Parliament Education Centre
w.c. 30 March	MFL Speaking Tests begin
30 March	Yr10 BTEC Sport retake
1 April	Trip to Swan Lake
4 - 12 April	Ski Trip

the next few months along with members of my teaching team to ensure we forge these links with the local schools and show the young pupils and families of this area what great things we have to offer.

Lastly, it has been so nice to get so much parental support and I have really appreciated your attendance to Parents' Forum and the measured discussions we have had. The feedback has been so useful as a barometer of how we are doing in making sure the school continues to rapidly improve.

HUMANITIES

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 – Stand Together

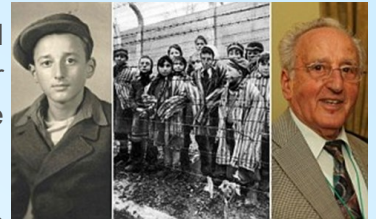
Holocaust Memorial Day is the day each year when we remember the six million Jewish people who were systematically persecuted and murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust. It is held every year on 27th January and the theme this year is **Stand Together**.

This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz – this is a significant milestone and is made particularly poignant by the dwindling number of survivors who are able to share their life stories.

Students have once again been learning about the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur during tutor times. In assemblies, a candle was lit for remembrance and students spoke about the life of Ivor Perl BEM, a Holocaust survivor.



Ivor Perl was just 12 years old when he was taken to Auschwitz. He survived with the help of his older brother, but the rest of his family were murdered in the Holocaust.



The logo for Holocaust Memorial Day is a Memorial Flame and this year the school community created our own Memorial Flame, which symbolises our commitment to remember and honour those affected and murdered during



Geography Landscape Models 2019-2020

The main homework for Year 7 students last term was to create a landscape model and describe the changes likely to take place in the landscape over time.

We have been setting this challenge for many years and the standard of models seems to get better and better. Well done to Year 7 for their enthusiastic response to this project and creativity! Students have been awarded with postcards and certificates at a variety of levels – Commended, Highly Commended and Finalists. The overall winners also received some prizes, which included a book by Jess Butterworth, who visited the Humanities Department last year. Here are some examples of excellent work from Year 7.



Coming soon – MECE Eco club

After the February half term during Thursday lunchtimes in Hums 1 we will be launching the **MECE Eco Club**. An opportunity to raise awareness and take up environmental activities and projects around the school and local community.



MATHS

A study published by Ofsted, says pupils without instant recall of multiplication tables struggle at maths. Therefore, in order to minimise the chances of any student at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge struggling with future mathematical concepts, every Key Stage 3 lesson begins with a round of Times Tables Rock Stars. All students are given five minutes to answer 60 multiplication and division questions to strengthen their understanding of the times tables. The Maths team have already seen a huge difference in the classroom with students being able to answer questions in detail and with greater confidence. We hope to take this challenge beyond the classroom and carry out a Times Tables Rock Stars Challenge with other KS3 groups to find the ultimate MECE Times Tables Rock Star.

Year 7 students have begun to explore the world of fractions, decimals and percentages. This topic forms the foundation of the GCSE exam and students are expected to be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions as well as convert between decimals and percentages.

Whereas in Year 8 it's all about Algebra. Students are discovering the use of brackets, equations and inequalities in the mathematical world and even looking into Fibonacci's sequence which is closely connected with nature and science – flower petals and storm patterns are the first place to look!

As Years 7 and 8 explore, Years 9 and 10 are getting down with the nitty gritty of exam practice and prep. Students are continuing the 3-year Edexcel Scheme of work and covering number, ratio, geometry, algebra and statistics in greater depth.

However, it's all go for our Year 11s. With only 120 days to go till the first exam the pressure is mounting. The Maths Department will be holding maths revision sessions where we would like as many year 11s as possible to attend and get the extra help and support that they deserve.



ENGLISH

This term in English Year 7 have been exploring Victorian England through literature. We have looked at various characters and how they have been portrayed including Oliver Twist and Emma Woodhouse. Students have been astonished at the differences between their lives and those of children in Victorian England. I can confidently say there is a growing appreciation for some of our basic amenities such as sanitation and even school itself!

Year 8 have been studying Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream". We have been bringing out the inner actor in us and roleplaying character's, looking at the language Shakespeare used and what is being inferred, and exploring thoughts and feeling of what a Jacobean audience would have found to be entertaining.

The world's mine
oyster, which I
with sword will
open.

William Shakespeare

Year 9 have been looking at literature by American Authors. This has really allowed us to develop our awareness of various different places across the world as well as different time periods. Students have been developing the skill to connect the relationship between the text and the context and have really come on leaps and bounds in making these connections.

Year 10 are working solidly with the Poetry section of their GCSE, we've looked at what has influenced the poet and their methods of conveying their messages.

Overall, all students are really progressing in their work and we're having lots of fun delving into these different worlds.



Performing Arts

Thank you

Whilst it already seems a long time ago, I would like to thank all parents who helped and supported with the school's production of *Oliver!* in December. Thank you for all the props, for all the costumes, and for all the help with the cast learning their lines. I was very proud of the production and enjoyed working with such a lovely cast; it is always a highlight of the year!

Choreography Workshop - 21st January

Years 10 and 11 took part in a 3hour Choreography workshop here at MECE, led by an external dance artist.

The intention behind the workshop was to help shape and develop material for the year 11's GCSE choreography exam in March. The year 10s were extremely helpful by encouraging the year 11s, filling in as bodies in their dances, as well as taking part in tasks and activities led by the choreographer. This will be imperative towards the year 10s understanding of this module for next year, and of course essential for the year 11s this year.

The pupils were extremely well behaved as always, and really dug deep to create some wonderful work. Well done!

Busking lunchtime

On 22/01/2020 and 6/02/2020, we had a group of musicians perform in the canteen at lunchtime. These students consisted of the Year 11 GCSE girls who performed their solo GCSE coursework – Lily who performed Whitney Houston's '*The greatest love of all*', Kate who performed Rhianna's '*Stay*' and Lucy who performed Eva Cassidy's version of '*Somewhere over the rainbow*'.

Alongside the GCSE students, there was a group of Year 9 students who performed the popular song '*Riptide*'. The atmosphere was vibrant and the support from the students in the canteen was great. Everyone enjoyed that extra bit of music at lunchtime. Miss Fay will be making busking lunchtime a regular thing. If any students would like to sign up please go to Miss Fay.



Wicked!

On the 28th of January our KS4 music students and some Year 9 students went to see one of their set works '*Defying Gravity*' in the popular musical '*Wicked!*'

This was a fantastic opportunity for the students to really hear the piece being performed live and for them to understand the context for their listening exam alongside the exciting costumes, props and lighting.



Sonning Common Primary School Workshop

On Friday 10th of January, Mr Harte, Miss Gardner, Jack and Summer (Yr11) and Mia (Yr9) delivered a workshop to year 5 and 6 pupils at Sonning Common Primary School.

The Primary pupils were exceptionally well behaved and very talented - learning and performing the number '*Food Glorious Food*' from *Oliver!* in under 2 hours to an audience.

It goes without saying that the 3 pupils who helped to led, direct and boost the year 5/6s were terrific. They represented the school magnificently and definitely gained some fans! Thank-you to Summer, Jack and Mia, and thank-you to Miss Salmon and SCPS for inviting us into the school to deliver this workshop. to 'be back soon!'

Extra-curricular Opportunities

Year 7 choir- for anyone who enjoys singing popular songs and songs from the films and musicals. This will be on Thursday lunchtimes in Music.

Music Maestros- a group of selected students who can play instruments of all kinds to recreate some popular pieces music from jazz, to rock, to pop in a band. If your son or daughter would like to get involved with this ensemble, please let Miss Fay know. There will be a KS3 Music Maestros group and KS4 group.

Modern Foreign Language

KS3

In Year 7 we are practising asking and answering key basic questions. Students have made some lovely posters about the things in their pencil cases.

In Year 8 we're working on modal verbs so students can say what they want to do, if they can do it and soon will be able to give excuses! Qui veut peut! (School motto)

Year 9 have done some great work on new year's resolutions, practising the future tense. This year we are consolidating the tenses which will set them up for KS4 and the current topic is work which is very topical given options are coming up soon – thinking about what they're good at and therefore what they will aim to do in the future.

KS4

Year 10 students have been diligent in learning how to describe a photo – a key GCSE skill and are working on being able to talk about their town.

In year 11 French and German we are focusing on the speaking part of the GCSE. It can be a nerve-racking time, a good opportunity to facetime in the language and/or have language parties! (Prize for anyone who says they've done that!)

Year 11

Mock Interviews - Before Christmas break, our Year 11 students had the chance to take part in mock interviews with senior members of the Maiden Erlegh Trust. This was an invaluable opportunity, one which taught us how to write a CV and personal statement, whilst giving us important tips and tricks on how to conduct ourselves and succeed in an interview. Many of the students will be having formal interviews with colleges and sixth forms in the coming months, and so we are grateful that we have been able to practise beforehand. I know that it has filled us with confidence and means that we can learn from mistakes to ensure that we have the best possible chance to progress to where we want to be. It was great to get some hands-on experience that will be useful in many different situations in our lifetimes, and on behalf of Year 11 I would like to thank all the members of staff that were able to provide us with this opportunity.

Henley College conducted interviews at school on Friday 31st January for students who have applied to study there next year. It is pleasing that the majority of Y11 students have now applied for their post 16 courses – we are receiving reference requests for a wide range of providers and courses.

Year 11 Parents attended the **Intervention Evening** on Wednesday 5th February, to discuss the intervention time tables being put in place and roll out the incentives planned to support learning and positive behaviour.

A reminder that **Seneca** is a free online resource students can access and create a portfolio of subjects relevant to their exam board. Please urge your child to access this on a regular basis, as chunking learning and little and often has proven to be an effective method for retaining information and revising key topics. Individual departments are also creating bespoke revision tools to support students in this final push. Please check Show My Homework for further information.

Prom Planning for Year 11 is underway, and students are forming a student council to make the necessary decisions on themes, invites and venues, supported by staff. CESA very generously provide a donation to the event that helps reduce ticket prices for students. **Leavers hoodies** will also be available to order shortly

Art, Design & Technology

New year, new ideas... At ADT we have asked our students to write pieces for the MECEmatters explaining how they feel about their lessons and work. We hope you enjoy reading the news from our students prospective. Enjoy it!



3D Design

"This year in 3D Design I have learnt how to make a photo stand, it has been really fun to make. Mr Reskalla explained the making step by step really well. We are now making a wooden knot which is difficult but fun."

Juliette, Year 7



Photo stand



Mini Architecture, Year 9

"So far we've created a speaker unit inspired by either a designer or design movement and have thought about how electronic manufacture works, I've enjoyed finding solutions to everyday annoyances." *Lucas, Year 10*

#KEEPMAKING

Art and Design

"So far this year we have been looking at Day of the Dead and festivals from different cultures. We all enjoyed the Day of the Dead work as it allowed us to create intricate drawings and paintings of flowers and symbols. We also liked casting our faces in Modroc to make our masks.

The Art team are very supportive and help you develop your ideas, we would recommend Art GCSE!" *Molly W, Ellie-Marie & Honor, Year 10*



African Prints, Year 10

#KEEPCREATING

Sweets Watercolour
Year 8



Food Technology

"In Food we have been learning about free range, Fairtrade and conducted some experiments on food science. My favourite dish was the Christmas cook because we could challenge ourselves" *Mia P, Year 9*



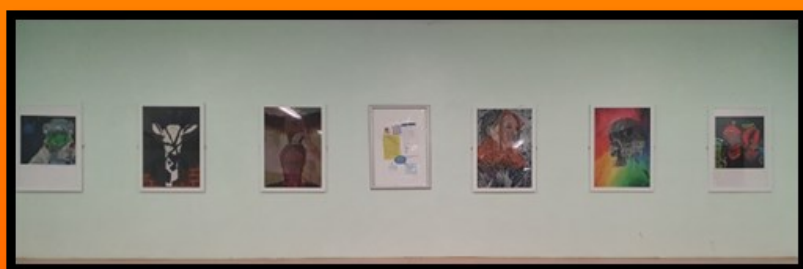
NEA2 Practice, Year 10



Star-Bread Year 8

"This year we have been learning about world foods and food culture. My favourite dish that I have made was 'Star-bread'; because the chocolate was gooey and melted and the bread was soft." *Abdul, Year 8*

#KEEPPAKING



Class of 2019 in the Dining Hall

ADT Extracurricular

Mr Reskalla's **3D Design club** is now open for business, just turn up Tuesday lunchtime.

Film Club continues to be a popular way to beat the midweek hump of Wednesday 3.10-5pm see Mr Watterson for a consent letter.

Art club this term will be looking at some ceramic ideas for Easter so come along Thursday lunchtime to find out more.

Competition time, we are looking for entries for The Oxfordshire Students' Book Cover Design Prize, Mr Watterson will give details in his Art lessons and there will be posters around the school.

Attendance

It has been great to see such a positive start to the term regarding attendance. January is often a difficult time of the year with lot of illness around.

We are particularly proud of Mrs Bhushan and 8B being the first tutor to achieve 100% attendance so far this term.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, I'd like to remind everyone that Oxford County Council (OCC) Attendance team monitor closely our attendance. It is important we all follow the guidelines provided from OCC.

If your child is unwell please email absenceandmedical@maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk each day by 8:30am to avoid recording an unauthorised absence. This prevents investigations considered by OCC.

Medical and dental appointments are encouraged outside of the school day, we understand this is not always possible. We require advanced notice with proof of appointment emailed to the above email address. Proof of appointment will ensure authorisation of absence.

We are able to accept appointment slips, screen shoots of texts and photos of prescriptions along with

Vacancies

Trustee (Non-Executive Director) Openings on the Maiden Erlegh Trust Board

Maiden Erlegh Trust seeks three Trustees to join the Board with particular interest and expertise in (a) Primary education or school improvement, (b) Special/Alternative Provision (c) Human Resources.

Trustees are both charity trustees and company directors of the academy trust; the role is to hold to account the executive and senior leadership team. The Board of Trustees manages the business of the academy trust and may exercise all the powers of the trust. The Trustees ensure compliance with the trust's charitable objects and with company and charity law.

The Trust Board are responsible for maintaining stability during a period of rapid growth and the management of a dynamic structure. The role also includes contributing to financial planning for sustainability and growth, and holding the CEO/CFO to account. Applicants will serve as non-executive directors of the Trust Board with the opportunity to fulfil the role as Trust Strategic Lead and/or sit on an Interim Transition Board of a special measures school.

Interested parties do not need to be parents of children at any school within Maiden Erlegh Trust. Board meetings are held in Reading.

If you, or someone you know, are interested, please write to Mrs V Boatman (Clerk to the Board of Trustees) at Maiden Erlegh School, Silverdale Road Earley, RG6 7HS or email trustees@maidenerleghtrust.org. Closing date is **Monday 24th February 2020**.

WORRIED ABOUT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL?

SOURCE

READING'S YOUNG PEOPLE'S DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE CAN HELP

IF YOU ARE 18 YEARS OLD OR UNDER AND WANT CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE, GET IN TOUCH.

HERE'S HOW:

- Call us or email us directly (the details are at the bottom of the page)
- Ask any professional you're working (youth worker, GP, social worker, teacher etc) to contact us.
- Your parent or carer can call us on your behalf.

WE OFFER:

- Information on the effect of drugs and alcohol
- One-to-one sessions with a worker
- Support to reduce your drug and alcohol use or help to stop using
- Ways to reduce the risks from the drugs you are taking
- Assessment for treatment
- Referral to other services e.g. housing, employment, services and benefits information.

PROFESSIONALS:

- Call 0118 937 6545 and ask to speak to someone from SOURCE or you can use the children's Single Point of Access (CSPA) referral form on our website (www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

OR

- Email source@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

CALL SOURCE ON: 0118 937 6545

EMAIL: SOURCE@BRIGHTERFUTURESFORCHILDREN.ORG



MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST

TEACHER & SUPPORT STAFF RECRUITMENT EVENT

**Tuesday 25 February 2020
4:00pm – 7:00pm**

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading
Presentation by Mary Davies (Trust CEO) at 4:30pm

If you're an experienced teacher, NQT or someone considering a move into teaching, come and talk to us at our Recruitment Event.

We are also looking for support staff to join our Schools.

For further information or to register your interest please email: recruitment@maidenrleghtrust.org

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading,
81 Crescent Rd, Reading RG1 5SL



MET Twitter <https://twitter.com/MaidenErleghTru>



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER,

Friday 6th March 2020 6.30 p.m at Springwater Congregational Church, Blounts Court Road, Sonning Common. Berkshire RG9 5EU Prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe the theme is "Rise Take Your Mat and Walk" The service will last an hour and will include a live weblink to Zimbabwe, followed by supper. All are welcome, not just women, and we look forward to seeing you there - Peppard District WDP

FACILITIES HIRE



We are delighted to be able to offer our facilities for hire to our local community.
[Click here for further information.](#)

SoCo Springclean

The SoCo Springclean is looking for volunteers to help lead teams of pickers to locations around the village, for our 3rd village litter pick taking place on Sunday March 8th 10-12pm.

No experience needed, just your enthusiasm! We are also looking for a volunteer(s) to man our spring clean HQ in the village Hall during the event. If you would like to get involved you can message us here or contact Emma and Geoff at so-co.springclean@gmail.com

twitter

Follow us: @MEChilternEdge

TERM DATES 2019-2020

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)

2 July 2020

ParentPay

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

Any queries please email us at

ParentPay@maidenrleghchilternedge.co.uk



ParentPay

Letters for Parents

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

Click here to view recent communications

PE Department

Click here to view our latest Sports Bulletin

