



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

Message from Andy Hartley

Well, it has definitely been a memorable half-term! As I write this article on Tuesday 13th October we have so far managed to escape the effects of Coronavirus on the school population. We know it is 'when' and not 'if' but we are counting our blessings that we have managed to stay free of the virus so far. However, this has allowed us to really get back into the swing of things after a lengthy break from school. We have tried to keep things as normal as possible and this has meant we have been able to really advance our standards in the classroom in terms of the quality of teaching and learning and the progress our students are making. We have kept up our calendar of monitoring and evaluation of classroom standards also which has allowed us to pinpoint our development points. In addition, and despite the pandemic, we have endeavoured to offer extra experiences such as astronomy lectures, science fairs the re-starting of sports and performing arts clubs, homework club and extra revision for Year 11.

What's most pleasing is how the students have responded to our being back in school or starting at MECE afresh as a Year 7. Our recent capture of feelings showed some real love for the school and the staff which really pleased me as the Headteacher. Whilst of course I want students to make progress and develop a keen interest in their world around them I also want them to be happy, well-adjusted and emotionally intelligent young people who can interact and operate effectively in our modern society.

CALENDAR

11 November	Parents' Forum
12 November	Henley Taster day
16 November	CPD Day (school closed to students)
17 November	Yr7/8 reports to parents
17 November	NEA Food & Nutrition
20 November	Yr7 Flu vaccine
23-24 November	Medic Fest
25 November	GCSE F&N visiting chef
25 November	Student Council Meeting (2)
26 November	Presentation evening
26-27 November	Music solos
2 December	Yr11 results & parents' evening
7 December	Yr10/11 visiting artist
10 December	Yr11 mock interviews
15 December	Performing Arts Showcase

YEAR 7 THOUGHTS

- "all the adults are willing to help if you don't understand (something) and they are very forgiving so on your first couple of days they (are) always making sure you are settling in alright. Altogether there isn't anything I don't like about this school."
- "everyone is a part of the team and no one is left out"
- "the school is a safe place where you get looked after"
- "all the teachers comfort you and make you feel welcome in every class."
- "...I love that there is always a teacher around the corner to talk to about your problems."

YEAR GROUPS—HEAD OF YEAR ROUND UP

YEAR 7

Year 7 have settled in brilliantly to life at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. Despite an alternative transition process, the year group have made a great start! As a year group they have already been awarded a total of over 1,500 House Points for great classwork, contribution in lesson time, homework and many other achievements.

It has been lovely to see so many Year 7 students immersing themselves in school life, in particular those who presented at the Science Fayre and those who have been attending afterschool sports, performing arts and homework clubs. I have no doubt that Year 7 will continue to be successful in all of their endeavours and I'm already looking forward to seeing what they can achieve next half term.

YEAR 8

Year 8 have made a very positive start to the year and I am in the very fortunate position of teaching PSHE to all students in Y8, giving me the opportunity to get to know them better. They have done some lovely work on anti-bullying, and we are all very keen to get some anti-bullying ambassadors to carry out some work on behalf of the school.

Tutors ensure a calm start to each day with a timetabled tutor activity, and Y8 have embraced the tutor reading programme. Whenever I visit the tutor groups, they are fully engaged in their reading which is lovely to see.



YEAR 9

The majority of Year 9 worked very hard over lockdown and this is paying off. They have settled well into their lessons and are making very good progress. As a small year group, they are very supportive of each other and have a very positive attitude to learning.

Tutors ensure a calm start to each day with a timetabled tutor activity, and Y9 have embraced the tutor reading programme. Whenever I visit the tutor groups, they are fully engaged in their reading which is lovely to see.

I have spoken to the year group about the upcoming options process; it is never too early to start thinking about them! I believe they will take the process seriously which is a sign of their developing mature attitudes towards their learning.

YEAR 10

Year 10 are enjoying getting stuck into their GCSE courses in earnest, and the hard work many put in over lockdown as they started their option subjects is paying off.

The students have adapted well to the new systems we have needed to implement to meet the current situation.

YEAR 11

Year 11 have made a great start to the new term, and are preparing hard for their PPE examinations. We are running revision sessions in morning tutor times for core subjects, then after school revision sessions in all subjects in the lead up to half term. Students are taking their mock exams very seriously, being mindful of last years' GCSE situation, and putting the effort in. Year 11 are also well represented in our relaunched House Captains, and Student Wellbeing Ambassadors.

Last Monday (5th October) we hosted a KS4 HOY breakfast recognising many of the Year 10 & 11 students who consistently and conscientiously work hard, and strive for improvement. 15 students received an invitation for a tutor time breakfast, with hot chocolate, fruit and pastries. It was lovely to catch up and chat with the students.

MAKING LEARNING STICK AT MECE

This term we have been focusing on the power of memory re-call. We started the year with a training session for staff, followed by assemblies and tutor activities for students. Teachers have been encouraging all students to practice retrieving their knowledge whether through questioning in lessons, or specific recall activities or homework.

We know that practicing memory recall is one of the most helpful ways to embed knowledge and make it available for use in later lessons thereby avoiding any 'in one ear and out the other' situations! Students can help themselves by doing this at home too by self-quizzing. This is

different from the traditional revising, which often just sees students re-reading information however, we know that re-familiarising is not the same as embedding learning and that recall is much more effective than re-visiting.

Key Stage 4 students have been given Knowledge Organisers that will help them organise their learning for their exams and can be used readily for self-quizzing with a simple 'cover, recall then check' process.

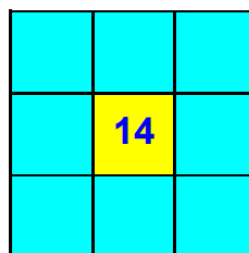
WHAT IS MEMORY RECALL



HIGHER ATTAINING AND GIFTED PUPILS

There have already been a number of exciting opportunities available for students to be able to challenge themselves, in spite of the Covid restrictions. In Science, there have been competition opportunities and the excellent Science Fair. There is also an exciting Model United Nations team preparing for competition. Sports teams are still training in the background so they are ready to compete as soon as restrictions allow. Watch this space for more opportunities as the year progresses, including debating, maths

challenges and a mini-conference series. Opportunities are advertised through tutor, google classroom and sent home as an e-communication. If you have spotted any opportunities that would be worth sharing with students, do email me j.hills@maidenerlegthrust.org.



Can you put the numbers 1 to 8 in each of the squares so that each side adds up to the middle number?

LAUNCH OF THE HOUSE SYSTEM

It was a privilege on the week beginning 28th September to deliver assemblies to all the year groups to launch the new house system in school. This has taken a long time in the planning and was supposed to be launched during the summer term but due to lockdown this was not possible, so it was great to finally launch it to the students.

I believe by having a house system in school will help with a number of things including; creating an identity, collaboration work between year groups and Key Stages, competition, develop leadership opportunities for our students and the most important thing for me is to help with rewarding our students.

House points will now be awarded to students for all the amazing things they do both inside and outside the classroom. These will go towards the overall house totals but also towards celebrating individual successes and achievements throughout the academic year.

All subjects and departments in school will be hosting a house competition of some sort throughout the school year. There will also be a charity linked to each house, which will be chosen by the house captains and head of houses, which we are hoping will be a local charity where possible.

In terms of leadership opportunities, there have been house captains appointed from our current Year 11s and there will also be house ambassadors appointed from each year group. These students will be involved in the planning and leading of house competitions and events as well as promoting a positive house ethos and ensuring all students get involved in all the opportunities offered to them.

So what are the houses.....

PEPPARD HOUSE

Head of House: Mr Watterson

House Captains: George B, Ciara R and Naomi S

House colour : Red

House Staff : Miss Shepherd, Miss Biddiss, Mrs Hussain, Mrs Bullivant, Mrs Worth, Mr Baker, Mr Bowden, Mrs Kunchithapathan, Mrs Jaj, Mrs Fearnside and Mrs Bosley



THAMES HOUSE

Head of House: Miss Fay

House Captains: Ben B and Emily E

House Colour: Blue

House Staff: Miss Hardman, Mr Reskalla, Mrs Grewal, Mr Jones, Mr Redrup, Miss Cheeseman, Mrs Hopes, Mrs Ely, Mr Warley, Mrs Perry and Mrs Boden



CHILTERN HOUSE

Head of House: Miss Swayne

House Captain: Connor F-R

House Colour : Green

House Staff : Mr Harte, Miss Ashley, Mrs Foster, Mrs Gautam, Mr Perry, Mrs Boys, Mrs Johnstone, Miss Flett, Mr Agar, Mrs Blackall, Mrs Kheti-Heer



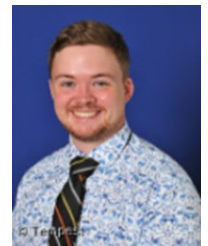
ABBEY HOUSE

Head of House: Mr Allum

House Captains - Kimi B and Isabelle F-P

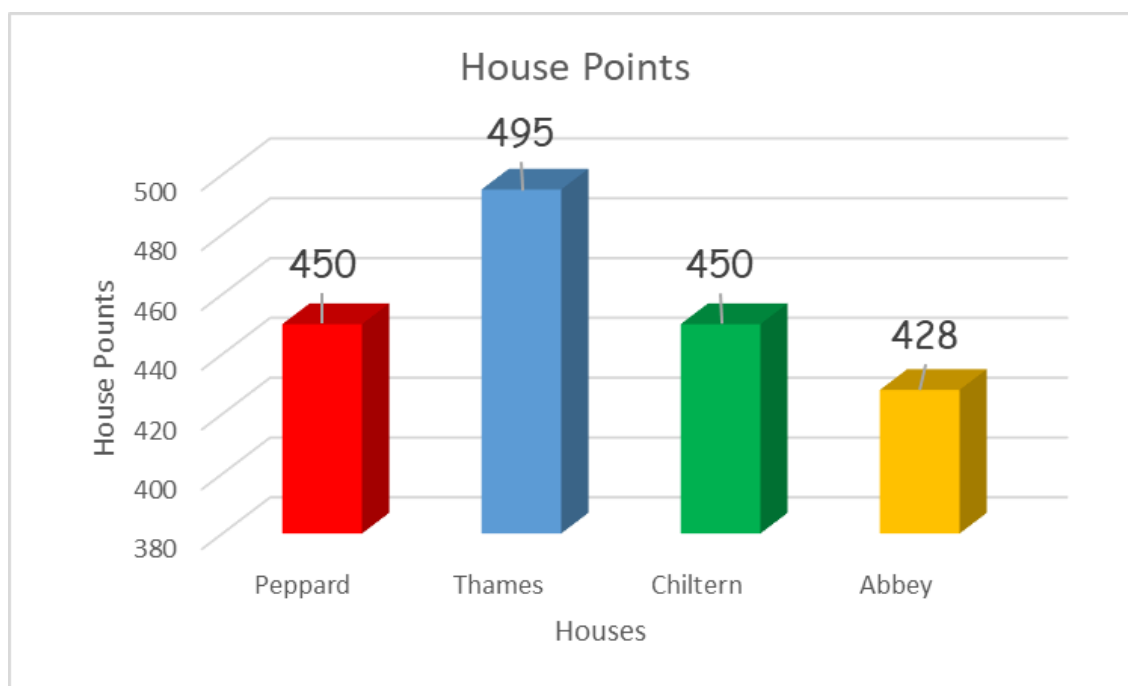
House Colour - Orange

House Staff - Miss Gardner, Miss Gates, Mr Yarwood, Miss Jackson, Miss Chopra, Mr Burningham, Mrs Allen, Mrs Reilly, Mrs Jomaa, Mrs Taylor, Mr Breen





LAUNCH OF THE HOUSE SYSTEM

CURRENT HOUSE STANDINGS - AFTER THE FIRST TWO WEEKS



HOUSE MEMBERS OF THE WEEK (5TH OCTOBER - 9TH OCTOBER)

THAMES	CHILTERN	ABBEEY
		
Amelia B (8C) 13 House Points	Alfie M (8C) 11 House Points	Charlie G-P (8C) 10 House Points

PEPPARD
 
Harriet B (10A) and Abi M (9C) 9 House Points

HOMEWORK CLUB

Thank you for your support in encouraging your children to Homework Club this week, we have had lots of attendees, which is great.

Please note that Homework Club runs afterschool 3.10-4.10 in the library. Any student catching the number 25 Bus at 4:10 will be able to leave early.

- * Tuesday – KS3
- * Wednesday – KS4
- * Thursday – KS4

Students can bring any homework they would like to work on and will be able to study in a calm learning environment, with access to the internet and support and assistance from staff.



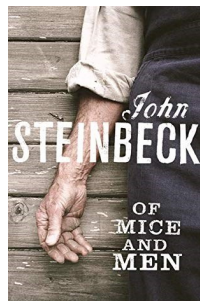
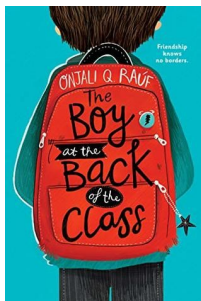
ENGLISH

The English Department is so pleased with how everyone has settled back into their classes and are blown away with the enthusiasm students are showing. **Mrs A Hussain, English**

YEAR 7

Year 7 are currently reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Rauf. A novel about a new boy starting school and a group of children try to befriend him. They soon learn that Ahmet is a refugee and has been separated from his family.

The novel centres on one of the huge global issues of our time: the refugee crisis. It does so with enormous sensitivity and even humour. The novel has enabled us to look at a difficult topic and allow us to explore the issue and develop our understanding of it's causes.



YEAR 8

Year 8 are reading 'Of Mice and Men'.

A novel which explores attitudes in 1930's America and exploring how the world has moved on from some very difficult topics such as race, loneliness and tolerance.

YEAR 9

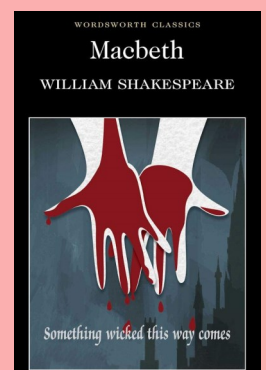
Year 9 are reading the play text 'A View from the Bridge'. The play contrasts the justice dealt out in Italy in ancient times with the justice system of modern America.

YEAR 10

Year 10 are currently working through Language Paper 1 and have been becoming familiar with the tasks they would have to complete in the exam. As well as this, students have been practicing using sensory language in their descriptive writing, we are truly blown away with their writing and the skill they are demonstrating in their fabulous pieces of creative writing.

YEAR 11

Year 11 have been embracing 'Macbeth' and exploring ideas of Kingship, ambition as well as how Lady Macbeth is defying gender norms of the Jacobean era. Students have been working extremely hard to ensure they all get the grades they are capable of.



MATHS

It's been an extremely busy term for the Maths Department. Apart from the usual clean up at the end of lessons to ensure that all our resources are COVID-SAFE, the Maths Team have been testing all year groups after remotely teaching for four months. This testing period has been a real eye opener for both staff and students. With the data gathered, staff now being able to adequately plan lessons that fill existing gaps as well as deliver new and exciting content. Students have also benefitted in this process as they now know where their areas of strengths and weaknesses lie and are able to use our online platform 'MathsWatch,' to help them with their revision in their own time and most importantly at their own pace.

The Maths department at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge believes that Maths is made from History. Therefore, we are so excited to teach our first Theme Day lessons at the end of the half term. As October encompasses Halloween, Black History Month and the run up to Remembrance Day, the students will have an opportunity to learn how Maths contributes to all these major events. So get ready to hear your child tell you more about theme week when they get home!

Mrs J Chopra
Head of Mathematics



HUMANITIES

This year to celebrate Black History Month, we are going to be spending two weeks in Tutor Time considering the Black History in Reading. Our sessions will be based around the Central Club Black History Mural located in the centre of Reading. This has recently come under debate as the building has been sold to a housing construction company. We will be considering the importance of this mural as a celebration of Reading's deep and diverse history as well as debating whether this should in fact be a

protected building. We will then be delving deeper by studying some of the key faces painted on the mural, including Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaten; and Muslim Queen, Amina of Zaria. This will help us discover that Black History is huge and diverse. It spans around the world and goes as far back as the earliest civilisations and should be celebrated as the rich history that it is!

Mr M Yarwood, Humanities



"Opportunity, diversity and success for all"

SCIENCE

Hello!

Well I can't believe it's only been 6 weeks since the start of term! A lot has happened in such a short amount of time.

Katy Hardman, Head of Science

YEAR 7 & 8

Year 7 and 8 completed their long-term homework project - my favourite scientist or my favourite invention. We had lots of really great entries including many female scientists being researched and not too many lightbulbs from Year 8. My particular favourite was the Toilet, because (as the student said) can you imagine your life without one!



Great excitement in the hall at break this morning as the finalists of our Science Fair were quizzed on their projects. Some brilliant work and high levels of pride. The votes are now cast. Who will be crowned champion??

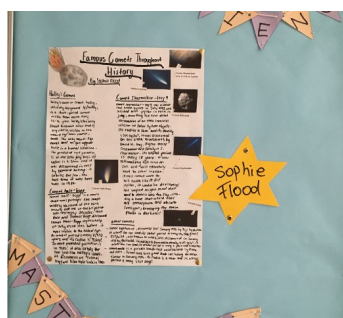
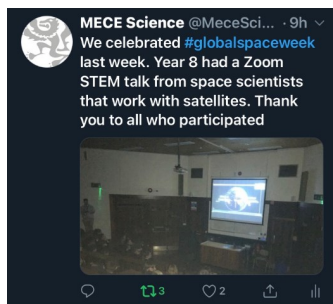
Traducir Tweet



Year 8 also celebrated Global Space week by zooming with satellite scientists from all over the world. It was a very interesting talk and, hopefully, year 8 realised that space is not only about planets and stars.

YEAR 9

Year 9 have kicked off their GCSE studies extremely well. Their recent test showed some pleasing progress and Miss Swayne, Mr Allum and I are really enjoying teaching Year 9. Each class is very different but all are engaged and interested in learning. Well done in particular to Sophie Flood who was our first Science Masterpiece to go on the notice board.



YEAR 10

Year 10 have started this year learning about Energy. This is a large topic with some difficult mathematical concepts. But, we are pleased to say many students have excelled since returning and have settled into learning very well.

There is STEM work experience available for Year 10 students during October half term. I really hope some students take this opportunity up.

YEAR 11

Year 11 have really hit the ground running this year. We have mocks right around the corner and we have been impressed with the turn out for after school revision sessions. Year 11 have had morning tutor revision as well, so we hope they are feeling supported during this time.



The Science department is moving from strength to strength. I am currently privileged to be going into our feeder Primary schools and giving Science assemblies to Year 5 and 6. This will help strengthen ties to those primary school and prepare students for moving into Science at secondary school – a big step up! If you would like to follow us on Twitter - please do!



@mecescience

Katy Hardman
Head of Science

PERFORMING ARTS



@MECE_PA

We are pleased that we have been able to continue to offer a practical experience for our students in their Drama, Dance and Music lessons. The students have been great at managing the changes we have had to make to our lessons in order to allow us to maintain the practical offering, especially when getting changed for their dance lessons.

Mr Harte, Head of Performing Arts

DRAMA

Mr Harte has been very impressed with the quality of the work recently in Year 9 Drama. Students have been learning how to successfully create performance with dramatic tension. We have been looking at how to develop the subtler aspects to our performance skills and this have resulted in some of the best performance work seen in drama from many students.

Year 11 students are midway through their devising work at the moment. This part of their GCSE sees them creating their own performances based on a stimulus provided by the exam board. In addition to working hard on these during their Drama lessons, the students have also been working hard on a written portfolio which tracks the creative process they are undertaking.



DANCE

Well done to year 8 students for adjusting to having their Dance lessons in the Sports Hall so we can safely manage the social distancing requirements whilst still exploring Dance in a practical way.

Year 11s are preparing for their imminent Dance exam with good commitment. Good luck dancers!

Miss Gardner has been pleased with the attendance to her dance clubs which allows us to develop the wonderful talent of our passionate dancers.

MUSIC

In Music, Year 7 have been exploring vocal experimental music whilst looking at musical elements and Miss Fay has been impressed with the enthusiasm shown in her lessons. Year 9 are composing their own music which could accompany a trailer for a scary film! The links with the work they have been doing in Drama as they explore the impact of sound and music on an audience.

We are pleased to be able to continue to offer instrument lessons in addition to timetabled Music lessons. If you would like more information about your child learning an instrument, please contact Miss Fay. Currently we have music teachers who offer tuition in the following instruments:

- VIOLIN
- GUITAR
- PIANO
- WOODWIND
- BASS
- BRASS



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

MFL have welcomed students back into the new area for languages – in the library block. With new displays and colourful rooms, the new MFL area is looking fresh as we bring culture and language to the students.

Mrs Foster, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

KEY STAGE 3

YEAR 7

Year 7 have made an amazing start and have produced some great posters with opinion phrases. They have also been enjoying an uplifting song – have a listen! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAkqJT_sMKQ.

YEAR 8

Year 8 have been learning weather phrases, connecting with activities and activities in town, recapping some of their excellent lockdown work. We have been looking at modal verbs and are starting the near future tense – both structures using the 'infinitive' form of the verb.

YEAR 9

We have chosen a new textbook which is being rolled out with Year 9 primarily – Dynamo 2 rouge. If you were able to, it would be useful to buy a copy to use at home: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dynamo-Rouge-Pupil-Stage-French/dp/1292248742>.

KEY STAGE 4

Students have knowledge organisers to help them at home – please ask them to show you what they look like and what they're studying.



YEAR 10

Year 10 have been studying family relationships under Theme 1 of the GCSE specification. They are sitting their first written assessments this week – a time for them to realise what they know and what they need to work on.

YEAR 11

Year 11 have been studying holidays and practising their tenses – these are crucial for exam success.

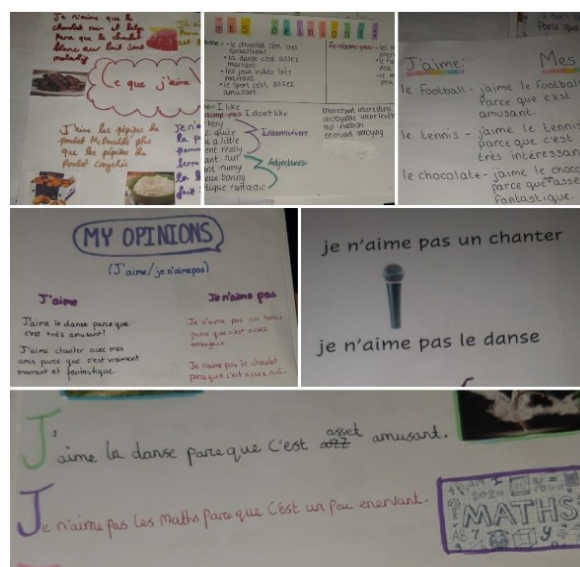
We're using sentence builders, battleships and a variety of methods to help build confidence

VOCABULARY LEARNING

REVISION TOOLS

Regular vocabulary learning will help boost students' confidence. How can you help?

- Look at their books or knowledge organisers and test them on 10 words twice a week. French-English, English-French.
- From that, choose 5 words to put on post-it notes.
- Label everyday things and activities.
- Ask them what they're learning about
- Ask them to research something they enjoy on a google.fr.
- Watch a French film together or listen to French music
- Check if they've used quizlet to practise: www.quizlet.com. All students should have created a login by now and joined their class (to an email of their choice).



FOLLOW US



ON MFLMECE1

ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

It's been another busy term in Art, Design & Technology, with many new restrictions and practices in place to make our practicals safe in current times. I hope you enjoy seeing some of the students creations and have a great half term.

Mr Watterson
Mr Watterson, Head of Art, Design & Technology

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

In the studio since September, Year 7 are exploring the Formal Elements of Art, Year 8 are looking at the sweeter side of food art looking at Wayne Thiebaud and Sarah Graham, while Year 9 have been developing their understanding of figure drawing and artists. GCSE groups in Art, Craft & Design and Photography have also made strong starts including exploring light sensitive dyes and personal identity.



Year 7



Year 8



Year 8



Year 9



GCSE

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The ADT workshop is starting to fire into action ready for some serious making after half term. Year 7 are creating designs for their photo holder, while Year 8 have been developing pewter pendant designs. Year 9 have been working on preparation for their clock production and KS4 students are exploring ideas to make a speaker unit. We can't wait to show you the finished products in the next MECEmatters.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Our MECE kitchen has been a hive of activity with students learning about a range of issues from food miles, nutritional values and traditional world foods. They have created a range of dishes including: fruit smoothies, freshly baked pizza, breakfast pancakes with seasonal fruit and chicken wrapped in bacon. We look forward to seeing how next half terms dishes will develop.



Year 7



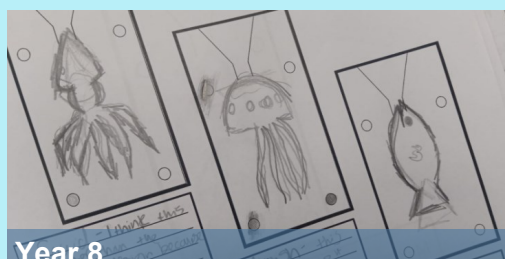
Year 8



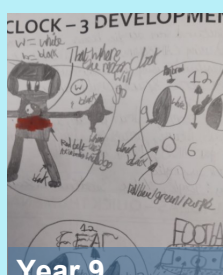
Year 9



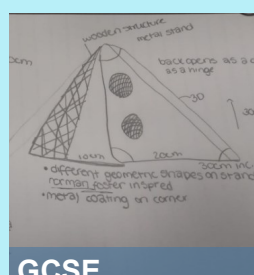
GCSE



Year 8



Year 9



GCSE



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TRAIN TO TEACH VIRTUAL EVENING

**Thursday 26 November 2020
18.00 until 19.00**

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mesteachingschool@maidenerleghtrust.org
www.berkshireteachingschoolalliance.co.uk

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

You can easily book a space using our booking
form on our website.

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In partnership with the
Institute of Education  University of
Reading

TERM DATES 2020-21

Autumn Term

3 September - Year 7 only

4 September (all years) – 23 October 2020

2 November – 18 December 2020

Spring Term

4 January -12 February 2021

22 February – 1 April 2021

Summer Term

19 April – 28 May 2021

7 June – 21 July 2021

Professional Development Days
(school closed to students)

1 September 2020
2 September 2020
16 November 2020
27 January 2021
1 July 2021


CLICK ON
THE
ICONS &
POSTERS

PE Department

*Click here to view our latest
Sports Bulletin*



CLICK "HERE"
TO BOOK A



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

Mr Andrew Hartley

Cordially invites you to attend a

Virtual Parents' Forum

Wednesday, 11 November 2020 - 6:30 – 7:30pm,
Zoom meeting details will be sent closer to the date.

Topics of discussion:

Ideas for community engagement
Contingency plans and blended learning
(How the school plans to teach and provide education in the event of a partial and total shutdown)
How we Quality Assure the work in school

**Let's change the way
we all think and
act about mental health**



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