



18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to you with my last end of the week communication for the year, and what a year it has been! I spoke to the students in our end of term assembly today regarding the momentousness of the year they had just experienced, and it is likely they will remember it for the rest of their lives. However, I am also proud that we managed to give the students a relatively normal end of term finish. Apart from the absence of singing, the students were able to enjoy performances from dance groups and musicians, get updates on House competitions and attendance prizes and awards, along with a few 'Dad' jokes and reflections from me. The assembly finished with a lovely staff Christmas video which seemed to go down really nicely with the students. Earlier in the day, the hall was filled with students eating a lovely Christmas dinner to the sound of festive tunes and we are really grateful to the catering team for putting on such a great spread.

In the spirit of Christmas and giving, I was so proud that our students rose to the House foodbank challenge. Mr Hunter, as House system leader, led on this and had originally said he would be using his car to take the donations to Readifood. With well over 500 items donated we switched that to the school mini bus this morning!! Charitable work, either in the form of time, goods or money is such an important part of growing up. Supporting those less fortunate than ourselves is a great life skill and a way of improving society, so I am delighted at the MECE community response to this.

The end of term is often a time to say goodbye to staff. I am grateful there are no teachers leaving at the end of this term which allows us to maintain our excellent levels of classroom provision for next year. However, two members of our support team are leaving. On reception, Karen Johnstone will be leaving us and we wish her all the best in the future. Very sadly, Beki Boys will also be leaving us. Beki is one of our Attendance, Behaviour and Welfare Officers and is so very suited to the role. Compassionate, a great listener and gentle and kind, Beki also keeps the students she deals with very much in line, which is why she is so great at her role. We wish Beki all the best in her new challenge and she will be sorely missed. In the interim, Liz Allen, whom many of you will remember, will be performing some of Beki's roles and also supporting our TA team, and we can't wait to have her back.

Please see our other communications regarding the start of next term and the logistical challenges we are facing.

And finally, my student of the week goes to Mia L who performed on both of our Christmas assemblies. She performed a wonderful complex piece with real élan and left her audience somewhat spellbound by her talents. It was good for the soul at the end of a long term. My staff members of the week go to Ms Shepherd and Ms Jackson who have been wonderful NQTs this term but also stepped in this morning to supervise our pop-up school. We are lucky to have such thorough professionals in our team. Mrs Ely also gets a mention this week for her wonderful work in SEN and has been nominated by a parent.



Please use the [FAB and DRAB](#) link to pass on feedback, whether it is developmental or positive we welcome your view. Also, please use the [staff member of the week](#) link to nominate a member of MECE staff who has gone over and above.

And lastly, have a great holiday, spend some family time together, stay safe and we will see you in the new year.

Andy Hartley

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Headteacher