



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are all well and as families you managed to have a good time together during Easter. From a personal perspective it is nice to spend some time at home without the spectre of home learning overshadowing the domestic situation.

The term has started positively. For example, today saw a focus on Earth Day for students with the completion of tutor time activities. Year 7 had this followed up with an interactive talk by Guy Grainger who is the Head of Sustainability for JLL, a real estate company very much focused on 'green living'. We also had a delivery of 105 saplings from the Woodland Trust which will be planted on edges of the school field. This planting process began today with the launch of our Eco Club, led by Mr Yarwood who took students out on the field to participate in this activity.

Our Year 11 students have been involved in a short series of exam style assessments as part of the portfolio of evidence we are compiling in advance of the submission of their Teacher Assessed Grades. This process will be complemented further by a summer assessment series in a few weeks which will build on previous mock exams and the classwork of the students across the last two years. As you can imagine putting this unprecedented system together has not been easy, however having spent an hour on Zoom this week with other Oxfordshire headteachers I feel confident that we are doing all the right things to ensure that our system is fair and robust but also offers the students the opportunity to show us their best.

Our House system kicks back into action soon with our MECE House Spelling Bee and House Rounders. The House system that we launched in September 2020 was disrupted by Covid and lockdowns but I hope that we can really embed it this term with a series of academic and sporting challenges and competitions and follow up the successful House quizzes of last term.

The path back to normality continues and we have been looking at some local curriculum-based trips for the end of this term. We are also hoping to launch a cross Trust ski trip very soon for February 2022- more details to follow imminently. In a wider sense, it is with relief that I sat down with my leadership team yesterday and looked at the final half term of the year and some of the extra opportunities we can now offer again- careers events, STEM days, Sports Day, field trips. Education in the widest sense is so important and the knowledge and experiences gained by many of these events can be so life enhancing.

Linked to the previous paragraph, please can I ask that you all maintain your home testing regimes. It is vital that the pandemic is over as soon as possible and ensuring we are all Covid free and not transmitting and spreading the virus whilst in school. Many thanks for your support on this.

I had a call this week with Ian from Avanti Freewheelers, a community-based cycling club for young people. They host cycle rides from the Weller Centre in Lower Caversham and details of this can be found here <https://reading.avantifreewheelers.cc/>. I liked his philosophy of giving young people the confidence to ride independently and especially since the pandemic these



opportunities have been much more limited. I am hoping to also use Ian to offer Bikeability courses to our Year 7 students as another method of developing their independence.

Please click on our links for any Fab and Drab and Staff member of the Week to leave any feedback you may have.

Take care and have a wonderful weekend.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

