



30 April 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you're all well and not getting too cold each and every morning on your way to work!

Parent Survey

The parent and student survey results came out this week and we have been delighted with the results they have revealed. The number of parents rating us as good or excellent has risen from 77% in 2019 to 99% this year and the percentage of parents recommending the school to others has increased from 79% to 97%. I was also really pleased that 99% of our parents rated the quality of teaching as good and 93% believe that there is an appropriate amount of challenge in lessons. All categories showed a marked improvement on previous years and also put us as at the head of the three Maiden Erlegh Trust secondary schools in the majority of questions. We couldn't be prouder and can't wait to share these answers with OfSTED when they arrive.

I will complete a lengthier response to some of the development points before May half-term but they have given us some good indicators for further improvement.

External Review

With OfSTED in mind we are being visited next week for a thorough external review by senior members of the Trust who will be meeting subject leaders, staff and students as well as going on a large number of learning walks. It will be used as another method for evaluating our current teaching practices and standards and understanding how our students are perceiving their experience at MECE.

The information from the surveys, the Trust visit next week and a number of other evaluations of the different interventions and practices that we are currently engaged in are used in our Self Evaluation of the year so that we can write our School Improvement Plan in the second half of next term. We will be sharing this in our next Parents' Forum in June where we hope to seek your views.

Careers Award and university visit

We also had some lovely news this week as our Careers provision has been recognised by OxLep, the Oxfordshire Careers Service. The school was one of seven across Oxfordshire to receive an award for its work in making students aware of apprenticeship opportunities. We know we have had some of our careers work disrupted this year by the lockdown and getting speakers in to school has been problematic however I am pleased that we will be taking a group of students to Oxford University at the end of June to make them aware of the opportunities and possibilities that this institution offers.

Head Students

Mrs Benham spoke to the Year 10s this week regarding the application process and selection procedure for our two Head Students for 2021-2022. We know there are some brilliant students in this year group with so much to offer the school and we can't wait to see what happens. Student leadership is an area we wish to develop further and hopefully with a pandemic free year we can see these plans come to fruition.



Creative Writing prizes

It was a pleasure to be part of an awards ceremony this week as Scarlett, Wilfred and Cameron received awards for their entries to a creative writing competition involving 12 secondaries across Oxfordshire. Scarlett had particular reason to be proud as she obtained the runners up prize which amongst numerous confectionaries also contained a £25 voucher. They can be seen in the photo with Miss Jackson who promoted the competition in school and Kevin Mytton from Empowering Learning who sponsored the competition.



Testing

Please can I ask that you keep going with your Covid home testing regime. We have heard of a positive case in one of the local primary schools and the whole of a year group in one of the local secondaries is currently self-isolating. We are desperate to avoid any more widespread disruption to our school life so please do keep testing and registering your results with the NHS. Thank you.



Staff Member of the week

This week the award goes to Mr Yarwood for launching our new Eco Club and co-ordinating the planting of 105 saplings that have been donated to us by The Woodland Trust. A photo of some of the members of the club and Mr Yarwood is below. This is a brilliant initiative and I am delighted that it has begun in school and can't wait to see what it achieves.

Student of the Week

This week my winners are Jess C and J'Nikea S-H – for a very successful start to their peer mentoring of younger students.

As usual you can leave feedback on through our fab and drab icons below.

Take care and have a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

