



17 May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

On 5 May, I had the privilege of spending the day at MECE with Andy Johnson (Executive Headteacher). I wanted to share with you some highlights of a hugely positive day.

We were focusing on the curriculum, but other aspects also stood out. For example, the huge improvements in the culture of the school, embraced by staff and students alike. This meant that lessons were calm and orderly, but also that there was a genuine and shared ambition to achieve as much as possible for every learner, where previously some students did not always have the confidence to “have a go” or aim higher. This was a delight to see and I was even more pleased when the students we spoke to confirmed that they had also noticed these changes.

We saw a range of lessons across the school where students were fully engaged, thinking hard and participating positively in the tasks asked of them. This was equally the case in the tutor lessons, where we witnessed the new reading programme in action – every student was involved. What is more, the students we spoke to appreciate this activity, not least the discussions that are inspired by the texts.

I was extremely pleased to see mixed ability groups working extremely well, and that inclusion strategies in lessons were effective. This is also very pleasing as I know the school has been working very hard to strengthen this area.

All those we spoke to were very positive about where the school is now. Most importantly, students were clear that they feel happy and safe at MECE.

All of this aligns with the survey results which were equally positive. For example, 99% of parent respondents rated the school at least good (45% excellent) and 97% would recommend MECE to others. 88% of students rated the school at least very good, and 80% confirmed they are proud to attend MECE.

Linked to the above, I think it is very telling that 96% of the 234 students who responded agreed that they understand why good behaviour is important for everyone to do well and enjoy school. They also indicated that respect for others is a strong feature of the school (eg: 95% agree this is true of students from different faiths and cultures or 90% LGBTQ students).

In terms of learning and teaching 89% agree they are challenged to think and work hard in lessons (and this was observed) and 85% agreed that teachers and TAs encourage them to do their best (again observed).

This is a tremendous recognition of the hard work of the staff and students (and the Local Advisory Board), especially impressive during a period of pandemic. Rest assured, they are as determined as ever to improve the school further, so there is no sitting on their laurels, but I felt the need to share with you a moment of positive reflection.

I must also thank you, the parents, for all your support of the school – these improvements are shared with you.

Yours faithfully



Miss M Davies  
Chief Executive Officer