



02 July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

INSET Day

I am writing this at the end of a very productive INSET day where I was really proud of our staff and our journey. We used the day as a forum for reflecting on all the great things we have done this year and this included:

- Extended Writing work across the curriculum
- Improved Inclusion provision
- Hegarty Maths and homework expectations
- A diverse and extensive range of Science activities beyond the classroom
- The relaunched House system
- Improved provision for the most able
- A rigorous system of quality assurance
- Tutor reading and our wider promotion of reading
- Our wonderful lockdown provision in January and February
- Improved behaviour and routines

It was heart-warming to hear our staff and I felt delighted by their synergy of sentiment towards the improvements in the school.

We also used the day to do some work on where we go next as a school and how we can keep improving. We finished the day with an excellent session with Sonning Common Primary School Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Salmons and Dr Loader on the standards of work from students in Year 6. We held a similar session last year and I believe it was very effective in ensuring that our staff understood the high quality of work that pupils in primary school can complete. This has allowed us to push harder with our Year 7 students across the year.

Sports Day

We have also spent a little time this week getting ourselves ready for Sports Day on Friday 16 July. We hope the day will be blessed with good weather and be a festival of participation and excellence. Obviously, the event will be managed within the bubbles we currently operate but it will also be brilliant to get all of the students out together.

Bubbles

The educational news this week has had a few stories regarding the end of bubbles and the plans for September. We have no idea what this may look like at the moment although I am glad that the end of the 10-day isolation period looks likely, however I am not sure anyone in education is relishing the thought of having to roll out their school testing station once again!

Parent Forum

It was great to spend some time with parents on Thursday evening (albeit virtually!) discussing our plans for next year. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive which was reassuring and

the constructive feedback we did receive will be invaluable in moving forwards over the next 12 months.

Leadership

I am sure we have all been watching the European Championships closely (fingers crossed for Saturday evening's result!) and I felt moved by this piece that was forwarded to me and I am sharing with you (although I do have reservations about the Ronaldo and Messi part) as it encapsulates so many of the attributes that we are trying to promote with our students here at MECE.

His name is Simon Kjaer.

He is an international Danish footballer and A.C. Milan player.

He is not a superstar, he does not have golden boots, nor is he one of the most expensive players.

Although he has been capped over 100 times for his country.



But, against Finland in Euro 2020 he went into the history of the sport, as a modern-day hero. Firstly, he saved his teammate, Christian Eriksen, who fell unconscious on the field, giving him first aid in the critical first seconds.

He then demonstrated leadership and asked his teammates to form a shield of protection around his fallen teammate to protect him.

And then he showed compassion and gave comfort and courage to the wife of the unfortunate Eriksen, who was clearly shocked to see her husband and father of her two children, fighting for his life.



Parents, I would like you to consider not desiring your children to become the next Messi or Ronaldo. Rather please guide them and wish for them to become someone like Simon Kjaer.

For his character

For his leadership.

For his compassion.

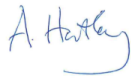
Stars of the week

My students of the week are Matthew and Eleanor from Year 7 for two lovely pieces of writing they completed for me for the Sonning Common magazine. Alongside this, I would also like to nominate Enzo from Year 9 who has made tremendous progress both socially and academically and in particular his progress with his English language skills has been excellent.

My staff member of the week is Mr Hunter for his all-round 'goodness'- always flexible, positive and willing to help, he and his team have been brilliant in keeping things ticking over this week.

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

