



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Firstly, a huge thank you for your support with the Tools for Learning initiative. Already teachers are saying how much easier it is when students have all their equipment and as a result presentation and pride in work has improved markedly. It all makes for a calmer smoother start to each lesson.

It has been really great to see the Year 11s taking advantage of all of their extra sessions both before and after school, huge thank you to parents for really pushing this forward. This extra preparation time is vital in giving the students the opportunity to maximise their grades in the summer examinations. I am still a little frustrated that one or two students are not taking advantage of this extra time with their teachers and I urge all parents of Year 11 students to cajole their children to stay on after school and get in early when sessions are being put on. Next week's PPE examinations will be a really good predictor of what will be happening in the summer, I hope all students can commit a good amount of time to their revision across this weekend.

On the topic of success, it was wonderful to read Maiden Erlegh School's recent OFSTED report. The 'Outstanding' judgement under the new beefed up criteria is an excellent benchmark for us all to aspire to. In addition, it is a testament to the expertise of the Maiden Erlegh Trust which can only benefit the long-term future of MECE. Furthermore, it provides myself and the staff team at MECE with some excellent insider knowledge for when we are inspected at some point in the next calendar year.

It was a pleasure to present a certificate yesterday to Emily in Year 9 who completed her training with the Active Leaders programme during half-term. The programme, ran by Penny Snowden in Sonning Common, is a way of teaching teenagers to become leaders and coaches for younger students during holiday clubs. These sort of skills and evidence of young people going the extra mile are just the sorts of things that allow young people to stand out in the competitive world of job applications.



- In addition to this, I hosted my second Hot Chocolate Friday today for students nominated by their Heads of Year for making an excellent contribution to the life of the school. It is always a pleasure to meet and spend time with these lovely young people and they have given me some great feedback to move things forward even further!

The last two weeks have seen Mrs Benham, our Assistant Headteacher, delivering two key assemblies regarding the matter of sexting and also LGBT awareness. It is so important that our young people understand their place in society, their roles and responsibilities as individuals and their freedom to express their identity. I hope these two excellent assemblies have helped the students to solidify their understanding of these matters.

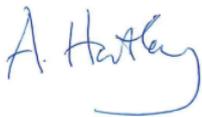
I hosted a tour this week for some Year 6 parents with children coming to us in September who wanted another look round. My heart really did fill with pride as we walked around a silent, calm school with students focused, engaged and progressing. I can't show parents a beautiful new school, but I can show them a school that seems determined to make rapid improvements and is pulling together really well as a community. Year 6 offers day on Monday was a really interesting day and I want to thank all those parents who wrote really positive and supportive messages in the various Facebook forums discussing schools - it was greatly appreciated and validates a lot of what we are trying to do.

On a sporting front we had a great success on Thursday this week. The Year 7s took part in the South Oxfordshire Schools Sports Hall Athletics Championships. With seven schools competing and despite being by far the smallest school in attendance our boys emerged victorious and go on to represent the area in the county finals in a few weeks. The girls also came 4<sup>th</sup> which is highly creditable once again. Last Saturday, I came up to school to support the Oxfordshire Primary Schools Cross Country Championships that MECE were hosting. It was a pleasure to witness the effort and endeavour of the competitors and the rather noisy enthusiasm of the supporting parents! A special mention to Lachie from Year 11, one of our sports leaders who also came to help on what was a rainy and windy morning. However, what also filled me with pride was the fact that our staff helped out in their free time for this event. Mr Watterson during the final race, ran alongside the competitor who was bringing up the rear, urging and encouraging her along! It was a wonderful sight and one which he was thanked for later by her parent. The event was also supported by CESA and I want to thank you if you were involved in providing the refreshments.

Lastly, as a school and a Trust, we are monitoring the Coronavirus outbreak and government advice. We will keep you fully apprised of any changes to our practice and any key government updates. Fortunately, as far as I know, both the pupils and staff have stayed healthy so far and long may this continue. If I can ask that you provide your children with tissues that would be highly appreciated and also keep reminding them to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Have a great weekend

Yours,



Andy Hartley  
Headteacher