



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are all well and keeping safe and healthy.

I have had an interesting week and have had the real challenge of balancing work and home schooling as my wife has been ill. Challenge is definitely the word! I know my children, despite my best efforts, haven't done as much as I'd like as I run out of one Zoom meeting, give precise instructions, only to walk back into the kitchen five minutes later to find my 7-year-old has disappeared into her bedroom and is playing a very in-depth game with Barbie. Many of my staff are facing similar challenges and as such their working patterns are not linear and not always aligned to the school day. Through our monitoring of the work set, our tracking of the students and the comments on Google Classroom we know that our staff are working incredibly hard. Feedback seems to remain the main issue for some parents and whilst it is an aspiration, it simply isn't possible to feedback on every piece of work, nor is it in line with the Trust policy. However, I do recognise and empathise with some parents that they will be anxious if the student is unsure that the work is accurate or in enough depth. In these cases, please do ask, either through the Google Classroom platform or via e-mail. Nevertheless, we have also factored in assessment points so that students will get more detailed feedback on a formal piece of work in each half-term. In this context, please can I ask that parents remain courteous and appropriate in their communications with staff; during this week I have had to support staff on two occasions after parents have thought it was appropriate to raise their voices with staff on the phone. It isn't. Please do contact me if you are feeling frustrated and I will be happy to help you deal with any issues and hopefully get them resolved swiftly.

This has definitely been an interesting week as a school leader. We have been presented with the challenge of preparing for some degree of re-opening and the relocation of the pop-up school back to MECE. On Sunday evening I'm sure, like me, you sat and watched and waited for a clear indication of what might be happening over the next few weeks. Boris gave an initial indication of July for secondary schools, which changed on Monday in a DFE paper, was clarified and updated on Tuesday and then added to by Gavin Williamson in the Commons on Wednesday.

At this point I want to pay tribute to the senior team at MECE. We are holding Zoom meetings after school each day, trying to plan, trying to move forward and firm things up. These meetings can be tense affairs and there definitely is not always consensus around the table. However, there is often reflection and additions and addendums sent on WhatsApp until late in the evening as we move towards what we hope is a solution- but who knows what tomorrow's latest DFE announcement may bring?! The team have been brilliant and have shown resilience, dedication and desire to make the solutions and provision educationally sound, but most important, as safe as it can be.

Here is an overview of what we are discussing, to keep you informed and so you can see our trajectory and direction of travel:

- A risk assessment has been written, that has attempted to predict every eventuality, but is definitely an evolving piece of work! It should be approved by the Trust in the middle of next week.
- Our pop-up school will be moving back on June 1st to MECE for key worker children and vulnerable students.
- We will be hosting some form of phased return for Year 10 after June 1st but this is still in the planning stages as government advice seems so fluid at present.
- We are hoping to provide a little more commonality in the method of delivery of online lessons based on your feedback with a greater use of verbal instruction over PowerPoints.
- We will be writing to Year 9 parents next week about our plans for their work after half-term
- At present Years 7 and 8 will remain unchanged in terms of our delivery of work although this is open to review

I would now like to use this opportunity to sing the praises of some of our students who have been doing incredible work in the most difficult circumstances over the last few weeks. These have all been recognised by staff for their excellent quality of work and engagement in the last few days and I wanted to share this with you.

Firstly, to the thirteen Year 10 and 11 students who have been enrolled on the Active Leaders course this week (**Daniel H, Kimi B, Warren G, Braedon F, Isabelle F-P, Emily E, George B, Abdullah C, Molly B, Lucy B, Rachael C, Priyanka S and Shane P**). I have been given daily updates from Penny Snowden, the course leader, who has been fulsome in her praise of their commitment, manners and ability. Great work gang!

Other nominations are below:

- Kitty C – Maths, French, Science
- Amelia B - Art & Photography, Music and Head of Year nomination
- Daniel H – Humanities, PE
- Jess C - Drama
- Summer C - Dance
- Milly M – DT
- Phoebe T - Maths
- Rayan G - Maths
- Joseph C - Food and Nutrition
- Martha G – French
- Louis S – French
- Molly B – French
- Ellie W - Art & Photography
- Savannah I - Art & Photography
- Cassie U – Art & Photography
- Felicity R- Art & Photography

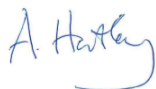
Based on the above Kitty C and Amelia B are our students of the week and will receive a special certificate in the post. A huge well done to all of our nominees!!

I would also like to tell you about our 'Staff Member of the Week' who is Mr Watterson. He is brilliant in so many ways and if you want to see some of the excellent work he's involved in, please download Artsteps from the Appstore, go in as guest and search MECE. Other nominations went to Ms Hussain (English), Miss Gardner (Dance), Mrs Worth (Student Services) Ms Flett (TA) and Mrs Allen (Headteacher's PA) all of whom have shown dedication above and beyond the call of duty.

As ever, please click on the [FAB](#) and [DRAB](#) links if you'd like to leave any feedback for us which we can pass on or action.

Have a lovely weekend and I hope you get to enjoy the weather and the more relaxed conditions of lockdown. I will be in touch next week with our plans laid out for after half-term in more detail.

Best wishes



Andrew Hartley
Headteacher