



5 June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

This has been a really positive week in so many ways. Most importantly, we relaunched our pop-up school back at our Reades Lane site. We have opened for our key worker family students but also our vulnerable students. We have worked hard to try and bring in to school those families whom we know have found the recent situation very challenging for a range of different reasons, often compounded by complex domestic circumstances and therefore to serve this sector of our community has been incredibly important.

For those who aren't coming to school Miss Bliss' video might remind you of our wonderful school. Please click on the link We Miss You

The pop-up school relaunch has required us to adhere to the very strict social distancing measures enacted by the government, however, I have been delighted at the way the staff and the students have risen to the challenge of taped off tables and benches, anti bac wipes etc. I am also fortunate because my staff are so keen to be involved and can see that thorough safety measures have been put in place, so I am able to run a well-staffed provision.

I have taken advantage of being back on site this week to bring all of the staff in to school for training and information. As we had been away the SLT were keen to ensure staff were fully informed of any changes, to remind them of the great progress we have made and also to get their views on our future direction of travel. As a Senior Leadership Team, we are meeting over two evenings to review the year and also to begin writing our School Improvement Plan for next year. I will share this with parents at the start of the next school year but in essence there will be no tricks and sleight of hand, just a solid focus on what is taught and experienced, both inside and outside of the classroom, how it is taught and the behaviour systems supporting the school experience. To reinforce our work on this aspect of school can I remind you that we have an INSET day in the school calendar for Thursday July 2nd. We will be using this day to work on next year's curriculum and will be beginning the event with a session from Rachel Salmons, the Deputy Headteacher of Sonning Common Primary School. I have asked Rachel to come and present to staff a skills audit and work sampling of Year 6 English and Maths work. I am very keen for the staff to understand what Year 6 work looks like so that the MECE Year 7 curriculum reflects this in terms of stretch, challenge and support.

Year 9 begin their GCSE courses on Monday so that is very exciting for them. Please ensure as a Year 9 parent you are helping the students to engage with their new lessons and subjects so that they can make a great start to their new courses. Alongside this we are finalising our Year 10 plans for the June 15th reopening which will go out to parents on Tuesday next week. For Years 7 and 8 our provision remains online but there are lots of great opportunities such as the live lecture on Astronomy set up by Ms Hardman this morning. The lecture is on Google Classroom but the live show featured real time question and answers from Dr Joly, the astro-physicist who delivered the lecture.

I hope everyone is keeping fit during the lockdown although I know my own exercise regime has tailed off a little recently, however this doesn't apply to everyone and I'd like to mention Mr Hunter's 'Miles in May' initiative. By encouraging our students and staff to record their cycling. Walking and running totals during May it was a great incentive to 'do a bit more'. The final totals are below.

Total miles as a school = 8906.715miles

Year 7 = 2976.99miles Year 7 Student = Natasha P 505 Miles Year 8 = 135.60 miles Year 8 Student = Delehn G 42.42miles Year 9 = 2129.60 miles Year 9 Student = Alex M 395.75 Miles Year 10 = 1287.75 miles Year 10 Student = Emily E 391miles Year 11 = 462.03 miles Year 11 Student = Oli V-P 99.82 miles Staff = 1914.755 miles Staff Member = Mrs Worth 528 Miles

Huge respect goes out to all of our participants but especially Natasha from Year 7 with her 505 miles. Wow!!

We will be installing our new cycle racks over the next few weeks which have been generously provided by CESA. Whilst cycling isn't an option for everyone, I would like to encourage students where possible to cycle in to school for all sorts of health and environmental reasons.

We say goodbye to Ms Bhushan today who has decided to move on to fresh challenges. Miss Bhushan has worked in the Maths department since 2018 and we thank her for all of her hard work. I have been delighted with the very low staff turnover for September and the small number of appointments I have made have been of a very high quality indeed. Ms Gleen, who will be our new Assistant Headteacher, came in on Tuesday evening for a planning meeting and she is absolutely fizzing with great ideas for moving forward the quality of teaching and learning and we can't wait for her to get started.

Our students of the week are listed below and a huge thank you to them for all of their efforts.

The Food & Nutrition nominations are

Dillon B Year 9 Charlie H Year 10 Charlotte F P Year 7 Chloe G Year 7

Star of the week Art, Craft & Design

Abigail H - For excellent effort going above and beyond with her Art Milly M - For a fantastic tonal landscape with good self-assessment.

Fay T - For your great enthusiasm for Art Charlie D - For an interesting Identity page.

Leah E - For a good start to your research for photography

Ellie-Marie T - For life amazing lockdown life drawing.

Humanities

KS3 - Dylan B, Millie M, Joseph G and Jeremiah J

KS4 - Abdullah C and Jemima S

Design and Technology

Year 7 - Shanique O-H-S for great design work

Year 8 - Ajmal Z for well-produced design work

Year 9 - Mia L for high quality evaluation on Architecture project

Year 10 - Jasper L for well thought out planning for main design project

Drama

James B - amazing work!

Dance

Molly B

Health and Social

Emily E

PΕ

Aaron F (Year 10) for his great work in BTEC Sport which has led to great progress being made and good outcomes in recent testing of Unit 1.

Music

Ben R

I'd also like to mention Daniel H from Year 10 who won our Mental Health Awareness week poster competition.

Huge congratulations once again to everyone mentioned. Can I also say thank you to everyone who sent in entries to the national Thank a Teacher initiative. We had over 120 messages which really made a difference to staff moral and can probably be best encapsulated by the following message:

"The school has been brilliant in these challenging times and all your teachers and support staff are a credit to the education system".

As ever, please use the <u>FAB</u> and <u>DRAB</u> link to link to pass on feedback, whether it is developmental or positive we welcome your feedback. Also, please use the <u>staff member of the week</u> link to nominate a member of MECE staff who has gone over and above

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Best wishes

Andrew Hartley Headteacher