



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Another week of lockdown has passed but next week sees us inch towards normality with the return of Year 10, albeit 25% of them each day. I hope that if this goes to plan we can increase our capacity however we have to be sure that our provision for Year 10 is both safe and effective. The rooms have been set up and the tape has been set out on the tables to ensure social distancing is as effective as possible. We've also put the students in one group and the teachers will move to the students rather than the students moving around. Please be assured that we will evaluate our provision every day but I am confident that if things go as well as our pop-up school provision next week will be a success.

I have been delighted at how well our pop-up school for key worker and vulnerable students is going. The students are working incredibly well and are very well behaved. Having attended an Oxfordshire Heads' meeting recently I feel confident that our provision for Year 10 and the pop-up school compares most favourably to all other local schools and I feel blessed to have staff who have recognised and helped us to overcome the barriers to providing face to face education in the current circumstances.

Some of you may have heard Boris Johnson announce 'a massive summer catch up' during Prime Minister's Questions earlier this week. Currently I don't know what that means, however even before PM Qs we had discussed within the staff the possibility of running our own summer school towards the end of the holiday. I hope we can provide something in the way of face to face provision but this is subject to so many variables. Rest assured that MECE staff are willing as ever to go the extra mile.

Mr Hunter came to Senior Leadership Team meeting this week to update us on a slightly delayed launch to our House System in September. One of the frustrations of lockdown has been the delay to our plans of school improvement and the House System being one such initiative. However, September will see a big launch for this with a range of academic and extra-curricular House events to challenge and inspire the students and increase the sense of community that comes with the membership of a House.

Mr Redrup, who will be our new Head of Computing, visited the school this week to ensure we had the resources, hardware and software needed for a successful launch of this addition to our curriculum in September. I am keen that we continue to offer a wide curriculum so the restoration of this subject into all years is imperative for our journey forwards. I have been delighted at the support I've received from the Trust to ensure we can continue to broaden our curriculum from 2021 with Business Studies and Economics hopefully becoming part of our GCSE options from September 2021.

I received a delightful e-mail from a Chiltern Edge alumnus this week. It's a wonderful story that encapsulates both the great history of the school and the great potential of the community and the school for the future. Mr Hunter is a truly wonderful PE teacher and I wouldn't want anyone else to lead the department, however I am tiny bit jealous that there isn't a British Lion on the staff anymore!

Dear Headmaster,

I was delighted to read in the village magazine about the recent success of the Year 10/11 rugby team,

and wanted both to congratulate them, and to thank you for sharing this with the wider community.

My pleasure in learning that the school still plays, and indeed, excels at rugby, made me wonder if you might be interested in some comparisons based on my memories of Chiltern Edge in the second half of the 1970's?

With over 1,100 pupils in total, and at least 240 in my year alone, we had a much larger pool of potential rugby players from which to choose. That said, while we were keen, we were not very big, and we struggled when it came to playing schools from Henley, Reading and Oxford. In fact, for 3 years, we lost far more games than we won. On reflection, these were the 'life lessons' that served us well later. We

didn't give up, even though we often knew we were beaten as soon as we saw the gigantic opposition storm onto the field.

Sometime between our 3rd and 4th year, things started to change. We started to grow, and suddenly we were as big as, or bigger than our opponents. Then a new head of PE arrived - a British Lion for goodness' sake?! For me, the arrival of Clive Rees was no different to David Beckham or Frank Lampard turning up today to coach the Chiltern Edge football team. In time, he brought his pal Kevin Bowring on to the staff. Kevin went on to coach Wales and later held senior roles with the RFU.

The next years were joyous for me and my rugby-mad fellow pupils. We quickly won a tournament held over at Reading RFC - no-one was more shocked than us to take possession of the J.P.R. Williams U15 trophy! We trained hard, and I got into trouble for sketching tap-penalty moves in the back of my French exercise book. In the fourth year, we won more games than we lost, and we were told that we could join the first XV on a pre-Christmas tour to Holland. In the fifth year, and I make no apologies for remembering all of the details, we played 20 games (all before Christmas), winning 17 and losing 3. I know the three teams we lost to (none local), but the most important result was the one against Gillotts School, Henley. For 4 years, Gillotts had thrashed us. Their PE teacher was a first-class rugby player (Ian George, father of Jamie George who currently plays for England); they were much better than us, and they knew it. We knew a lot of them from playing at Henley RFC, and we also knew that this was our last chance to beat them. I remember the day of the game: we were exhausted having just returned from our second tour of Holland. We desperately wanted to beat Gillotts, but we limped onto the pitch carrying knocks and fatigue from so many games. In the end, it wasn't pretty, but we did it. Best of all, they were stunned!! Of course, many of us went on to play with them at Henley College where they were big enough to admit that they had never imagined Chiltern Edge could beat them, and that the result had ruined their season. The better news however, was that once we combined with Gillotts, we went on to be first runners-up, and then winners of the U18 County Cup during our 6th form years.

But before we left Chiltern Edge, we also formed a choir! That was the influence of the amazing Ken Fitt (a predecessor of yours) - I'm still not really sure how he did it, but he was shrewd enough to style it as a 'rugby team choir', so we went along with it, and even managed to entertain some old folk at Christmas (whether they liked it or not!)

Naturally I can't share any details of our two overseas tours, but I can say that a few years ago, at least a dozen of us met up in Henley having kept in touch over the many years. I think we'd all agree that the rugby we played at Chiltern Edge meant an awful lot to us, just as I hope it has to your current pupils! Congratulations again to everyone involved in the ongoing success of Chiltern Edge rugby!!

If any other parents or grandparents have similarly positive memories of their time at Chiltern Edge please do not hesitate to share with us.

Thank you to those parents who nominated Miss Cheeseman, Mr Allum and Mr Watterson for staff member of the week. I have copied their nominations below. I am so proud of the commitment they have shown here and hope it typifies MECE staff. Please click on this link for [staff member of the week](#) to nominate any staff for this week.

"We would like to nominate Mr Allum

for this week . He has been especially amazing this week ! . I sent him an email says that my son was beginning to struggle with both the online school work & returning to school . He phoned me and reassured us that everything will be ok . Mr Allum then spoke with Ms Biddiss & has managed to access my son a place at the pop up school to help alleviate some of the school anxiety . We are very grateful for his continued & consistent support !"

"I would like to nominate 2 MECE staff members that have gone over and above last week:

Ms Cheeseman – calling my daughter over the weekend to talk over Btech sport option that she was given which was her reserve option and she had some reservations about. Ms Cheeseman was great in giving my daughter a real confidence boost and explaining the Btech sport option very clearly to her so she understood exactly what it entails and expectations – Thank you Ms Cheeseman, you were fab!
Mr Watterson – for hand delivering my daughter's A5 sketch book and some pencils on Sunday afternoon (!) so that she can start her GCSE Art module this week – Thank you Mr Watterson!"

Staff have made their student of the week nominations based upon effort and application. It is a pleasure to read the long list of names below. Keep up the great work everyone!

English

- Aish K-H

Maths

- Hibbah A

The Food & Nutrition nominations are

- Hibbah A
- Alfie C

Art, Craft & Design

- Theo R
- Sophie f
- Ewan d
- Hibbah A

Humanities

- Declan B
- Joseph C
- Aaron F

Design and Technology

- Akshaya S
- Ruby W
- Nathan D
- Lucas J

Dance

- Akshaya S
- Kitty C
- Hannah T

MFL

- Declan B
- Aaliyah S
- Ashley P
- Grace B
- James B

Science

- Nathan D

PE

- Isabelle F-P
- Jess C

As ever, please use the [FAB](#) and [DRAB](#) link to link to pass on feedback, whether it is developmental or positive we welcome your feedback.

Have a great weekend

Best wishes



Andrew Hartley
Headteacher