



22 October 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you're all well and looking forward to half-term.

Covid

I'm sat writing this from my kitchen on my final day of isolation from Covid. It has been an interesting experience although not incredibly enjoyable and I am just pleased not to have suffered from some of the more extreme symptoms. I caught Covid from one of my own children who'd picked it up at a sleepover, yet the learning point is that we mustn't be complacent especially given the rising case numbers in South Oxfordshire and Reading. Very fortunately the school has seen low numbers of Covid infection in the last three weeks having witnessed a spike in late September. Nevertheless, we will be monitoring the case numbers and local situation over half-term and if we need to make a change such as mandatory face coverings in classrooms and corridors we will let you know via a school comms on November 1st.

Please ensure all students complete a Lateral Flow Test on the evening before school resumes and that no student returns to school with any Covid symptoms.

With my absence in mind, I'd like to pay tribute to Miss Bliss and the team who have kept things going brilliantly in my absence despite this being the eighth week of term for staff, but I can't wait to get back in the hot seat from November 2nd!

This week's activities

This week we have kept up our range of extra activities. This has included Year 8 students participating in a workshop on coding and computing called Ozobots. This was really successful and demonstrated some of the practical applications of being able to code on a computer.

A number of our Year 7 students attended the trip to Reading Museum and Reading Abbey as part of their study of the Norman Conquest. I'm told that they behaved brilliantly and loved examining at the replica of the Bayeux Tapestry.

Uniform

Please make sure you use half-term to replace any uniform items that have worn out and that you consult our uniform website page before making any purchases. A link can be found [here](#).

[Uniform and Equipment](#)

Can I also ask that all ear-rings and piercings that do not comply with our requirements for personal appearance are no longer taped? Clear plastic retainers may be used if this is deemed necessary to keep the piercing open.

CESA Quiz

Don't forget to get your teams ready for our CESA quiz on Friday 12th November in the Main School Hall. All proceeds go to CESA who fund so many great student projects around the school.

Stars of the week

My stars for this week are definitely my SLT-Miss Bliss, Mrs Hills and Mrs Blackall who have kept things moving despite my absence. I know from talking to them and looking at the timing of their e-mails across the week that they've put in a 'big shift'.

My students of the week are Lily B and Dominik D for their amazing code-breaking skills in Maths - they would have given the Enigma machine a run for its money!

Lastly, if you have any feedback either good or bad, please click on the links below.

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with the school as your support is vital in allowing us to keep the community safe in these peculiar times and ensuring the school runs smoothly at all times.

Take care, stay safe and have a great half-term



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

