



29 November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Please accept my apologies for the lack of my usual Friday communication.

Presentation Evening

Our wonderful Presentation Evening on Thursday evening kept me very busy until late into the evening last Thursday. It was a great night made even more poignant by the lack of the event last year due to Covid restrictions that were in place last November. The hall was very busy, and it was lovely to see so many of our MECE families in attendance celebrating all that was great about our school. This included Thomas Deli from Year 7 who performed a wonderful and incredibly complex piece on his clarinet to begin the occasion and this set the tone of excellence for the rest of the event. It was very special to welcome back last year's Year 11 to receive their GCSE certificates and a host of achievement prizes along with current students from across Year 8 to 11 to receive prizes for their ongoing accomplishments. Between each prize, be it for academic subjects or special prizes, Miss Bliss provided a brilliant narrative of everything that is taking place at the school. The keynote speaker and special guest for the evening was Sam Townsend, an alumnus of MECE who left Year 11 in 2002 before going on to an incredibly successful career as an international rower competing in two Olympics for Team GB as well as winning numerous World Cup medals including golds. Sam's speech was truly inspirational, and he made clear points that are worth every student listening to - that is to make the most of your opportunities and talents and to always try your absolute best. Sam's journey from a local state comprehensive to the pinnacle of a sport dominated by independent school students showed what can be achieved with discipline, effort, listening to the support you are given and reflecting and moving forward when things do not work so well. We are truly grateful for Sam taking time out from his busy schedule as Master of Rowing at Radley College and we hope to maintain our relationship with him.

Covid

As you will know from the communication that we sent home early on Sunday evening face coverings will now be expected to be worn in all school communal areas. Therefore, can I ask that all students leave the house in the morning wearing a face covering. Students will also be expected to wear a face covering on school buses. I will be meeting with my Leadership team on Monday, and we will confirm any further adjustments that we are making in school because of the latest Covid developments later today.

Parent Forum

Can I remind you that we are hosting a parent forum on Wednesday at 6.30pm. This event will be now online. Please click [here](#) for details and to register for the event. Consulting with and listening to parents has been important in helping us to move forwards so please can I encourage you to join us on Wednesday.

Community Morning

On Saturday from 9 until 11.30am we will be holding our first community morning. This will be all outside and will be focused on tidying and digging our garden areas ready for planting by the students. These areas can then be used by the Eco Club, in Science and Geography lessons as well as being a safe reflective space for any students suffering from anxiety. We would really value a few more volunteers for this. Please [here](#) to register. All you need is a

spade and smile and in return you will get tea, a bacon sarnie, and the knowledge you have helped the school further widen its curriculum and support offer.

Staff and student stars

This week, my staff stars of the week go to **Miss Bliss**, who led the school for three days in my absence earlier this week (I was part of a team inspecting another school), as well as organising a brilliant Presentation Evening along with **Mrs Reilly**, our examinations officer who always administrates and organises everything she is involved into an incredibly high standard.

My student of the week goes to **Thomas Deli** for his wonderful clarinet performance at our Presentation Evening - this was quite the undertaking for a Year 7 student, but he performed with such aplomb!

Feedback

Please click on the following links to leave us any feedback that you would like to.

Take care, stay safe and have a great week

Yours faithfully



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

