



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

With Christmas jumper day today, it really is beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

It was lovely to see the students dressed for the occasion and I was so pleased we have been able to raise some money for our Save the Children and our other local House charities.

Next week sees our annual drive to donate food for Readifood and the Weller Centre, both of whom provide provisions for families in our catchment who need our support. I am really pleased that we are using the House system to raise awareness of these excellent charities. This also complements the toy drive we did for Reading Family Aid last week. Christmas as we all know can be a time of excess for many in 2021 Britain so ensuring our students understand how they donate to help others is so important. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed so far and will donate next week.

Last Saturday was a wonderful 'community' day at MECE. In the morning I was part of a gang that cleared the allotment and quiet garden. The allotment is now ready for Spring planting which the Eco Club and the Gardening Club (to be launched in the new year!) will be using. At the same time a good number of students and staff helped to marshal the South Oxfordshire Primary Schools Cross Country meeting. CESA were also on-site serving refreshments and snacks and I cannot thank those parents enough for giving their time up to do this. It was wonderful to see so many people contributing and giving their time freely to support the school and its position at the heart of the local community.





Boris Johnson's latest Plan B announcement was delivered to Parliament on Wednesday evening. On Thursday morning we received updated direction from the Department for Education which changes very little in terms of the existing guidance for schools. This was comforting as it means that we can maintain our current provision. At present we are unaware of any members of the school community who have been diagnosed with Omicron variant, but we will inform you if that becomes known.

On Tuesday our Year 11 students received their mock results in an assembly led by Miss Bliss. The students were given great guidance on what these results could mean and how they can move forwards including a brilliant excerpt from 'Any Given Sunday' with Al Pacino urging his team to fight for the inches. We hope that by listening to the feedback from staff, completing the D.I.R.T activities and seizing the opportunities they are being offered (and there will be many!) those inches will become feet!

My staff stars for this week are **Mr Yarwood** and **Miss Kirby** for their time, enthusiasm, and expertise on the gardening morning. It also goes to **Mrs Fearnside** in the office who rescued us on Monday by coming in on her day off when Covid had decimated the office team.

My student star of the week is **Dylan** - for his fantastic attitude in the Year 10 inter house football. Not only was he on the winning team but he ensured that when he played teams with less players, he made the matches fair and as a result enjoyable for everyone! Fantastic sportsmanship!

Please click on the links below to leave us any feedback you may have. Thank you to one parent this week who left some excellent feedback regarding Tassomai for English which has allowed us to reflect and refine our use of this homework software.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Best wishes

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

