



14 January 2022

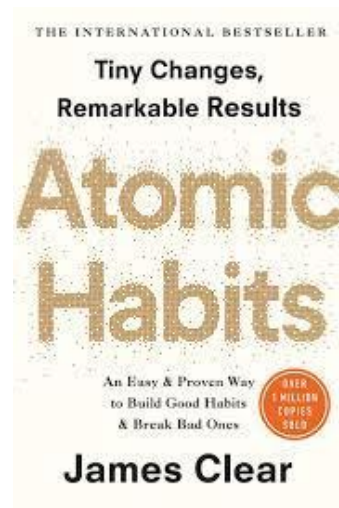
Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been another good week and I have particularly enjoyed leading assemblies to all the students and being in lots of lessons as part of our School Review 2.

Assembly

My assembly has been on new beginnings and positive habits, and I have shared with the students some points from the book 'Atomic Habits' by James Clear that I have been reading recently. I hope the students have been listening and making small positive adjustments and doing more of the things that work well for them. I shared the following list of effective habits that can help the students.

- Packing your bag, the night before school
- Getting a good night's sleep
- Laying the correct uniform out before you go to bed
- Ensuring you eat a healthy breakfast
- Having the SMHW app on your phone and enabling notifications
- Staying hydrated with water or low sugar drinks
- Doing your homework, the night it is set
- Leaving your phone in a different room while you do your homework
- Attending homework club once a week
- Keeping your work neat, highlighting titles, reviewing your work each week to make sure you understand everything.



School Review 2

My lessons visits have also been positive, and I have been particularly impressed with the focus of students in lessons this was corroborated on a parental tour this week. The visiting parent was lavish in her praise of the appearance and positive working attitude of the students in comparison to her current local secondary school. Our focus in the School Review has been on whether the students with SEN are being supported and I am pleased to report I have seen some very strong practice. These have included: seating arrangements deliberately done to provide support, reduced text extracts, sentence starters, clear modelling of best practice, TAs well deployed, deliberate overlearning of certain topics to ensure fluency, keywords always on the board, constant checking for understanding, differentiated questioning for SEND students, the curriculum adjusted for certain sets to name but a few!!

Mrs Clarke, our SENCO, has been doing Pupil Pursuits in various lessons and Alison Walker, our Director of Inclusion, will be talking to SEND students in panels today to get their viewpoint. When all this information is triangulated and assembled, we should have a more complete picture of this aspect of our provision, but I hope you can see how hard we are working to ensure we have a complete picture of classroom practice.

School Canteen

Since last week our new Head of Kitchen, Michelle Boden has been in charge. If your son or daughter has not been a regular user of our canteen, I would ask that they give it another go. Michelle's food is excellent and there is some real love and care being applied. This week I

have had an amazing Thai Green curry, a lovely spicy chicken wrap as well as a complete chicken breast seasoned with thyme. And sponge puddings and custard are also back on the menu...

Sniffer Dog

As you will know we were visited by the drug detection dog earlier today. In my assembly I have spoken to the students regarding the issues surrounding drugs-crime, intimidation, poor personal physical and mental health, poor academic performance as well as drugs and the law. The visit of the dog is about ensuring the site is safe and that students can focus on their studies. I am so pleased that we did not find anything and that our students have understood the clear messages they have been given.

Duke of Edinburgh

I hope all Year 9 parents have seen the letter regarding our launch of the Duke of Edinburgh Award today. It is with real pride that we have got involved with this scheme and the combination of volunteering, physical exercise, skills acquisition, and expedition will only benefit our young people.

Mary Davies - CEO

You will have seen the e-mail earlier today regarding Mary Davies. Mary is wonderful to work for and her moral compass and clear values alongside her incredibly high expectations make the Maiden Erlegh Trust a great organisation to belong to. Mary's departure at the end of this calendar year will mark a great change for the Trust however, she leaves it in great stead and ready for her successor to take things to even greater heights.

Stars of the week

My stars of the week this week are:

- **Mia K** in Y7 - she has never missed a basketball club and she is always incredibly considerate and helpful ensuring equipment is packed away at the end.
- **Charlie G-P** (Y9) - for her unwavering support of another student to find the correct answer in French. Both students are showing real commitment and positivity towards their time in school.
- **Lianna B** Y8 - helpful and hardworking during all lessons, supports other students and has a very positive attitude.
- **Gemma P** Y10 - organised and hardworking, has a positive attitude to learning and always supportive of others.
- **Jack L** Y11 - research and effort with excellent results in preparation for his practical food exam.

My staff member of the week is **Miss Cheeseman**. She has led a brilliant Year 7 Kindness Challenge this week and this initiative typifies her pro-active and incredibly thorough approach to being a Head of Year.

Please leave us any feedback you may have by clicking on the links below.

Take care and have a great weekend.



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

