



21 January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Week 3 of this half-term has whizzed by!!

Site walks and school reviews

I have had the pleasure of our CEO, Mary Davies, completing a site visit this week. We watched students learning in maths, English and science as well as year 10 reading Macbeth aloud during tutor time. Miss Davies was very pleased by what she saw, including the challenge of the content and the similarity of provision for classes within each department. In addition, she remarked upon the focus and engagement of learners in the lessons. These observations complemented what was seen in our School Review 2 last week where we dipped into lessons across the curriculum, observing the quality of provision for students with SEND needs. This work was supported by Mrs Clarke who is our SENCO (and also the SENCO for Maiden Erlegh School in Reading). Overall, we were delighted by what we saw and the knowledge of the students from the staff and the quality of support they receive. Whilst I know our 'journey' is not complete, it is important that there is clear progress and that we continue to move forwards as a school.

Flexibility and support

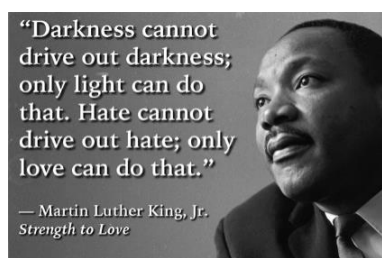
January can be a testing time in schools, and we have had some staff absence this week. Whilst this is frustrating, I have been incredibly pleased by the way the students and staff have dealt with this. I am also pleased as we haven't had to collapse any classes or send year groups home. However, it has meant some of our services have been a little reduced in terms of clubs and support services and I am grateful for your patience with these matters.

School Council and the canteen

Next week is the third student council meeting of the year. I know that on the agenda is our school canteen and the food we provide. Michelle Boden, our Head Cook, has recently been promoted into post and I know she is very keen to work with the students and listen to their ideas. As mentioned last week, if you haven't done so already, please make sure your son or daughter has another look at the canteen food, the menus can be viewed [HERE](#).

Assemblies

This week's assembly was by Mrs Ashley, our Head of Year 10 and 11, on Martin Luther King Day. Next week sees Mr Yarwood deliver his assembly on Holocaust Memorial Day. These assemblies represent a flavour of the values we are endeavouring to give our students – compassion, respect, courage and justice. If you get the opportunity, please do watch Martin Luther King's famous 'I Have a Dream' speech with your child and look at the information on the link so that they may understand a little more about the incredible story of civil rights in the USA in the 1960s.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP4iY1TtS3s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79xlq5pNc9w>

Face coverings

Face coverings were removed from government guidance late on Wednesday evening and we informed our students of this change on Thursday. Please see the slide [here](#) for what we shared. I was pleased that our students have continued to wear them well during lesson transitions and at breaktimes in the canteen. We will see if there are any other changes next week but overall, I am delighted at our move back to a more normal way of working.

My student star of the week is Isias in Year 7 who was the star of the Kindness Challenge and received the most house points during the two weeks. Even prior to the challenge Isaias was always kind, considerate and helpful!

My staff star of the week goes to Mrs Hills for her tireless work with Heads of Department talking through their curriculum. In addition, it goes to Mr Watterson for his great support of the PE department alongside all his other work.

If you would like to leave any feedback, please click on the links below.

Please take care and have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

