



18 March 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are well and keeping Covid free (I hoped I would never have to write those words again!). **Sorry...**

Please excuse the lack of newsletter across the last two weeks. Sometimes creating the space in my schedule to put pen to paper proves impossible.

### **Bromcom and My Child at School (MCAS)**

We have been back three weeks now and the transition to our new student information system has gone smoothly. Please can I urge you to sign up to the Bromcom parent app - My Child at School (MCAS). Having this app will allow you to keep an eye on so many aspects of your child's school life – house points, behaviour, homework etc. and I would say it is essential to have. Please now go ahead and delete the old ParentApp (but please keep ShowMyHomework)

### **CESA Spring raffle**

Our CESA Spring raffle letters have gone out recently so please can I push both the donations to the raffle and the big prize of a **£250 John Lewis voucher**. This has been donated by Bridges Estate Agents in Sonning Common. Raffle tickets and details of how to purchase them have been distributed in students bags today (Friday 18).

Bridges have kindly agreed to work with the school to support our fundraising towards student focused projects such as new sports equipment and an outdoor eating area. If anyone uses Bridges for their house sale or purchase, please mention the school as we will be given a portion of the commission Bridges charge.

### **Buses**

Next Wednesday, 23 March, inspectors will be on each bus ensuring that students only gain entry to the bus with a valid bus pass. Reading Buses have become frustrated by the large number of students who never have their passes yet expect to travel. If your son/daughter's pass is missing, please can I ask you to contact Reading Buses and order a replacement as soon as possible.

### **Behaviour (+ and -)**

We have seen a couple of examples of poor behaviour on the bus once again recently. As a result, I have issued two lengthy bus bans. I have also met all the 83 and 84 students about our expectations to re-iterate what is not acceptable. Please do discuss this with your sons and daughters and ask them to alert the school if behaviour is not acceptable on the way to and from school.

However, in contrast Mr Harte took our Year 11 Drama students to London on Wednesday to see 'A Woman in Black' and was complimented by members of the audience on how smart, respectful, and polite our students were in comparison to the other school groups in attendance. This was further supported when I spent over an hour walking the school visiting lessons and across breaktime with our new Chair of Governors, Lindsey Bowden. It was a delight visiting lessons and asking students what they were learning, why they were learning

it and what they could remember. There was such a positive consistency of response that was a joy to behold. I have also been keeping up my Hot Chocolate with the Head mornings with students nominated by their Heads of Year for extra effort in class.



### Revival

**My students of the week this week are the Year 7 rock stars Spencer, Jack W, Rufus, Fred W and Charlie G (known as Revival!)** who showcased three songs from their repertoire at the Henley Youth Festival last Thursday. Whilst they covered Seven Nation Army by the White Stripes, they also performed two of their own numbers, they played with confidence and panache way beyond their years, and I look forward to listening to them on Spotify soon. A huge thanks to Miss Fay for encouraging the boys to enter and supporting their rehearsals in school during lunchtimes.

### Parents' Evening

We held Year 10 Parents' Evening on Wednesday evening, and this was done face to face. This was the first time we had held an in-person parents evening since February 2020, and I am so glad we did. I sat in and listened to some brilliant conversations between our parents and staff and connections were made so much more easily than online. I will be writing to parents and staff to get some feedback as we decide on the format of our future parents' evenings. However, I did receive this lovely communication from a parent this morning

*"I would also like to say how wonderful all the teachers were that I spoke to this evening. They were all very polite and full of praise for ... and very helpful. ... enjoys learning and is very academic, this is helped by having wonderful teachers. Miss Biddiss, Mrs Chopra, and Mrs Hussain are particularly amazing."*

### Science Week

**The science team** have been heroic all week delivering breaktime events to celebrate British Science Week. Ms Hardman, Dr Wyatt, Mrs Bosley, and Mrs Kirby have been surrounded by students getting their hands dirty, reacting chemicals, blowing up rockets and dropping Mentos into Coke bottles. I was slightly concerned about yesterday's experiment as it had the word 'megadeath' in the title but it was fine! They also held the very well attended Science Week House Quiz on Thursday lunchtime which was a lovely academic occasion and celebration of knowledge.



Thank you so much for your ongoing support, please do not hesitate to leave us any feedback on the links below.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Andy Hartley  
Headteacher

