



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Well, that was quite a week!

I was on my way to a Trust meeting on Monday morning when I received a call from school that OFSTED had telephoned. A quick handbrake turn later and I was on my way back to school, calling the Trust, Chair of Governors and other key individuals (hands free of course!) en route.

When I returned to school, I was given a time for a call with the Lead Inspector. This call lasts around 90 minutes, and you are grilled about the school and your main foci, progress, and development points. The Inspector had done his homework, questioning us about documents, press releases, policy dates and other details regarding the school. However, the call went well, and we felt reassured that the inspector understood the school and its context and journey.

The next 8 hours were a blur of preparation. We have a tight plan for such days, and this quickly kicked into operation with documents gathered, a timetable prepared, all students spoken to, the staff met, middle leaders prepared, and data readied for the day that followed. I know that none of us slept well that night and we were back in school at 6.45am the next morning to get ready for the day to come.

The inspectors met the staff at 8.20am before meeting several middle leaders, visiting lessons, and looking at student work. There were also meetings about attendance, SEND, behaviour, exclusions, Pupil Premium, safeguarding, student panels and many more. At 4.30pm myself and Emma Bliss were called back into the inspection team base to hear their meeting where the inspectors' feedback on the day to each other, occasionally asking us for clarification. This meeting also sets the agenda for Day 2, and we left with another timetable to prepare and papers to ready.

On Day 2 the inspectors visited more lessons from across the timetable, discussed curriculum, higher ability provision, visited an assembly and tutor time along with our reading programme. The inspectors also toured the school during breaktime and in lessons and purposely met as many students as possible to cross reference and test what we had told them.

What shone through in the inspection was the positive feedback the inspectors received from students, staff and parents which all supported our work on the school. Indeed, the fifty written responses and submissions in support of the school including from Sonning Common Parish Council was quite something. The staff survey was also remarked upon with almost all our staff (teaching and non-teaching) completing it and 100% saying they felt proud to work in the school. In addition, the inspector was also incredibly positive about our Parent view survey with 100% of responses (68) saying they would recommend the school.

In many ways, the word 'team' summarises and encapsulates all that went on in the school during the inspection. The office staff ensuring all ran smoothly, the catering team feeding us before school, during school and later, the support staff quietly ensuring everything was running smoothly and the teaching staff making sure the lessons were everything they should

be. I would also like to pay tribute to the Trust teams who supported the school quietly behind the scenes making sure all bases were covered and additionally, my Senior Leadership Team of Emma Bliss and Judy Hills who were simply remarkable in their professionalism and rigour and definitely left an impression on the Inspection team. Whilst it was the very best version of MECE on show for the two days what was pleasing was the work in the books and the students' verbal responses all confirmed that the quality of education the inspection team saw was typical of the experience the students get each day.

Day 2 and the whole inspection ends with myself and Emma Bliss, my Deputy, being called in to the inspectors to hear their judgements on the school. The Governors and Trustees and Trust staff are also called in after the judgements have been agreed to hear the final verdicts.

As you can tell we are enormously proud of our inspection, however we cannot tell you the final verdict for a number of weeks until the report has been moderated and checked at OFSTED headquarters. We look forward to sharing the news with you.

In other news!

Year 11 begin their examinations on Monday with a big week of exams. I am so incredibly proud of their progress since I first met them in January 2020 and the way so many of them have developed positive study habits and a desire to succeed. We cannot wait to see their results on August 25.

Year 10 have been doing their first set of mocks this week and what has been pleasing has been the invigilators remarks that they have been 'angels'. I am sure the results, as always with Year 10 exams, will be a mixture of deserved success for some and a bit of a wake-up call for others. However, part of the reason for the practice papers is to ensure students realise the scale of the task ahead!

Stars!!

The **entire school community** are the stars for the week as absolutely everyone chipped in to make our week so successful.

Take care and have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

