



20 May 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

It was back to normality this week and we had lots of tired staff and students after the adrenaline of OFSTED. However, I have been really pleased with several things this week.

Year 11s and GCSEs

Firstly, our Year 11 students have been working their way through the first week of their GCSEs. Their week has been a combination of exams, normal lessons, and booster sessions in the hours prior to the examinations. What is clear is the determination and solid preparation that so many of our students have shown across this week. Many schools have sent their students off on study leave at the end of last week, but I feel that there has been a lot of extremely focused revision with teachers walking students through the exam papers and focusing on last minute tips.

Maths Challenge

A few weeks ago, our top set mathematicians in Years 7 and 8 sat the UKMT mathematics challenge. This is a national competition that stretches and challenges the students in a series of twenty multiple choice maths puzzles. It requires the students to apply learnt mathematical skills and apply them to unusual contexts. When I arrived as headteacher the school did not sit the challenge at all however after overhauling the curriculum and stretching the students to a much greater degree I am pleased that two years later we managed to achieve twelve bronze certificates, ten silver and one gold with another group of nine students within two marks of a bronze. Congratulations to Zoe T in Year 8 who showed herself to be in the top 2% of mathematicians nationally.

Year 10 Careers Week

Following the PPE examinations from last week our Year 10 students have been exploring the world of careers and their futures. They have had talks from colleges, apprenticeship providers, attended a small careers fair for post sixteen providers, looked at interview techniques, CV writing, dressing to impress, taxes and wages. It has been great to see how engaged so many of the students have been, engaging in the activities and asking great questions about their futures.

Years 7-10 District Athletics

It was lovely to talk to two slightly sun crisped PE teachers on Thursday evening. Mr Hunter and Miss Cheeseman were full of enthusiasm for their day at Tilsley Park, Abingdon for the District Athletics. The students conducted themselves admirably and several have qualified for the County Finals to be held later this term. It is so nice for our young people that these events are up and running again and normality is returning, and I could tell from talking to the teachers that everyone had a wonderful day out!

The standout performers were **Isaac W** from Year 9, **Emmanuel N** from Year 7, and **Juan O** from Year 10. In addition, the Year 7 girls' relay team of **Imogen, Jorgia, Brooke, and Shantae** did brilliantly as did the Year 9 boys' relay team comprising of **Carter, Tejaun, Gabi, and Isaac**.

My student stars this week are **Zoe T** for her Gold award in the Maths Challenge and **Corey D** in Year 10. A local parent contacted me and said:

I just wanted to drop you a note to say what a lovely chap Corey D is.

Last weekend, he refereed 3 matches for our under 9s football teams, he was absolutely brilliant with the kids, did a brilliant job as ref and conducted himself in a professional manner. He is a credit to MECE!

It is always brilliant to hear of such things and the ways that our students conduct themselves so well outside of school.

My staff star goes to **Anna Finlason**, our Trust Careers lead and **Amneesh Khedi-Heer** who have organised and lead our Year 10 careers days giving our students such a great and worthwhile experience.

Please leave any feedback you may have via the links below.

Take care and have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

