



08 July 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Sometimes on a Friday afternoon you look at a week that is coming up and think "It's going to be a busy one!" And so, it has been...

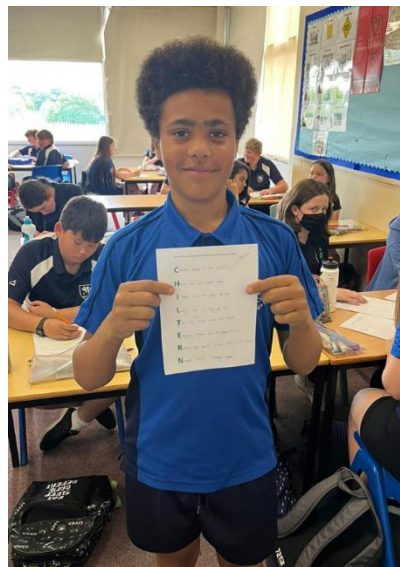
Transition

This week has seen us deliver our Year 6 Transition programme. This has involved a well-attended parent meeting on Monday evening in which two of our wonderful Year 7s, Jorgia P. and Samuel S. accompanied me, Miss Bliss, and Miss Cheeseman on stage to talk about how to succeed in Year 7.

The evening has been complemented by two days of activities for our upcoming students. This included ice breakers, singing, PE, academic tasters and lots of fun activities that have allowed the students to mingle and make friends. For those students who have found school a challenge in the past the school also laid on a lovely morning on Monday to break up any anxiety some of our new students may be feeling.

Character Day and Thorpe Park

On Tuesday we held our Character Day for Year 7 and 8. The students worked in houses on a number of activities related to the school values and the values their houses are trying to promote. I took a visitor around during some of their work, and he complimented me on both the quality of the student's ideas and their engagement with the tasks they had been set.



On the same day Year 9 and 10 visited Thorpe Park with a view to studying the connection (gettit?!) between roller coasters and forces. Unfortunately, some extremely poor ticketing arrangements left the students stuck at the gates for over an hour thus missing their workshop. However, there was still plenty of time to enjoy the thrills of the theme park.

Sports Day

On Wednesday we held our annual Sports Day. With help from Mr Nutt and the MES PE department the whole school came out and participated, cheered, ran, jumped and threw. It was a lovely afternoon and it was wonderful to see how much the races and the House system mean to the students. Last year was the first time we had held sports day since the school was reborn but the event was badly affected by Covid, fortunately this time the event was able to go ahead with a full school and it was brilliant to see each and every event was fully participated in and credit must go to the heads of House for nudging, cajoling and corralling the students into getting out into the arena.



Parent Forum

Also, on Wednesday we held a Parent Forum. It was great to see fifteen parents there and we used the opportunity to reflect on our progress and take the views of our parents on our plans for next year and garner any ideas the parents had on what we should be doing next. It was great to see there was a large degree of parity between parent's ideas and our School Improvement Plans.

Miss Shepherd and our History curriculum

On Wednesday, straight off the sports field Miss Shepherd sped across to the headquarters of RISC where she presented our work on anti-colonial resistance and rebellion in India that is a part of our Year 8 history curriculum. This event was attended by the right Worshipful Mayor of Reading Counsellor Rachel Eden. Miss Shepherd can be seen following her talk with the mayor. We are so proud of the work Miss Shepherd has done to re-calibrate our Key Stage 3 and 4 curricula so that they reflect the Modern Britain we live in, and it is great to see that she is gaining such recognition.



School Exhibition

Today sees our School Exhibition including our dance show. The commitment of our staff has come to the fore once again with Miss Gardner conducting her rehearsals via Zoom as she suffers from Covid ably supported by Mr Harte and Mrs Ashley who have ensured the dancers have stayed safe as they rehearsed.

Vaping

Sadly, the week has also been blotted by another case of students vaping in school. As has been stated previously this is not acceptable behaviour or legal behaviour and as a school, we want to take a stand against it. The cheap vapes that we find our students using are sold from unregulated shops usually in central Reading. What we do know is that many of these vapes contain not only nicotine in copious amounts but a whole host of other unknown chemical compounds and we do not think it right that any young teenagers should be inhaling these chemicals into their bodies. I hope we can work with you as parents in making sure we look after our young people and keep them from the harm that these devices could bring.

Eid Al-Adha

Tomorrow marks the advent of Eid Al-Adha. Therefore, to all the members of the MECE community celebrating this event may I say an Eid Mubarak! We also wish you a joyous and blessed Eid Ul Adha with lots of laughter, joy, and good health.

Stars

My student stars of the week are **Jorgia** and **Samuel** from Year 7 for their tremendous speeches on Monday evening.

My staff stars of the week are numerous. **Mr Hunter** for organising Sports Day and the Character Day, **Miss Cheeseman** for organising the Transition Days, **Ms Hardman** for organising the Thorpe Park trip, ably supported **Mrs Fearnside** in the office.

Please do not hesitate to leave any feedback through the links below.

Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

