



16 September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Queen

The week has been slightly sombre and we have ended with a Commemorative Service for the Queen this afternoon. We have celebrated the life of Elizabeth, the length of her reign and her commitment to service.

We felt it was important to hold the service and to give our own MECE farewell to the Queen. In addition, we wanted to ensure our students understood the events of the last week and over the next weekend.

Those of you who follow us on Twitter may have noticed that we haven't posted this week. This isn't because we haven't wanted to post but rather, we have been observing an agreement between most schools to mute their social media posts during this period of national mourning.

Assembly

This week Mrs Benham has been leading the morning assembly for all year groups. The assembly has focused on a range of topics including safeguarding processes within the school, relationships and messaging to ensure how students know how to keep safe.

Headteacher's Challenge

I had the pleasure of marking the Year 7 Headteacher's Challenge on Monday. These are pieces of work submitted by the students when they arrive with us and they are intended for the tutors to use as introductory personal information. We often find out about pets, siblings, holidays and football teams but in addition there are often some really pertinent pieces of personal information that will help the tutor to support the student and build relationships. This year I found out about a record javelin throw, sensory issues, medical issues and other insights that are so useful when developing bonds with students as they become part of our school.

Homework Club

It has been great to see students using our Homework Club on each day it has been open this week. In addition, there has been good attendance at the majority of our extra-curricular clubs as they've opened for business. Year 11 have also been brilliant in attending the Triple Science Club and the Higher Maths Club as we look to support those students whose curriculum is that little more challenging.

Unfortunately, the extra 25 bus leaving the school at 16.22 has been a little less reliable however I am assured it will be running every day next week.

Routines and learning

It has been brilliant to be out and about each day and see how well the students have settled into their new classes and are meeting our high expectations. Listening to so many of my staff say what a great day they've had and how focused the students have been is a real pleasure. Unfortunately, despite clear rules, written expectations and explicit reminders one or two students have decided to ignore these expectations, however we have worked hard through

a combination of sanctions and support to get the majority of these students back on track this week.

Monday

Just a reminder that the school is closed on Monday for the Queen's funeral, but we will be back open as normal on Tuesday.

Next week

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 7 parents on Thursday at 6pm for our Parent Welcome meeting. A communication has been sent out and for those who haven't yet responded can I remind you to click on the link.

Our push on reading continues as we also have the author of 'Running on the Roof of the World', our Year 7 Summer reading book, coming in to hold a workshop with Year 7. This will be supported by our regular 'Drop Everything and Read' slot on Monday 26 September.

In addition, we will be welcoming prospective parents to the school on Tuesday and Thursday. We have over 50 families coming in to see the school for these two mornings with more planned for early October. Furthermore, on Tuesday 27 September we have our annual Open Evening and it is a wonderful MECE family occasion with students and all our staff putting the school on show.

Stars of the week

My MECE student star of the week this week is **Lianna** in Year 9 who has produced a piece of writing that has been selected for publication in the Young Writers annual showcase. Lianna is someone who takes her studies and writing craft very seriously, as well as having a prominent role in our Anti- Bullying group. She definitely embodies the values we are looking to promote in our students.

My MECE staff star of the week is **Ms Giordan**, our Acting Head of Maths, who has put on a range of extra opportunities in the Maths department and is working incredibly hard to ensure our students get excellent provision.

Please click on the links below if you would like to leave any feedback.

Have a great weekend and take care.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley

