



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

Headteacher: Mr A Hartley
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Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome Back!

Firstly, can I warmly welcome you to the academic year 2022-2023. We are looking forward to what we (and I'm sure all of you) hope is a year of normality regarding Covid and any other disruptive factors.

The last year has been a fantastic twelve months for the school and we hope to maintain that momentum of great results, a growing roll, and high expectations.

This week has been a strong start overall and I have walked the school on a number of occasions. I have been particularly pleased to see tutor times being used so productively with Year 10 and 11 engaged in Science, Maths and English revision activities, alongside Key Stage Three participating in tutor reading. In addition, our extra lessons programme began on Thursday with Mrs Giordan delivering a Period 6 for the Higher-Level Mathematicians.

Year 7 and 11 - Day 1

We had a brilliant first day on Monday for our new Year 7s and our returning Year 11s. I held assemblies with both year groups laying down our expectations and discussing our values alongside a presentation on the positive journey of the school. In addition, both year groups had ice breakers and a lovely community lunch which was shared with tutors. I really appreciated the chance to sit down with both year groups and meet the students, discuss their summers, see how their days had gone how they were feeling about the weeks ahead. Year 11 finished the day with a talk from motivational speaker and Paralympian, Andy Lewis, about his journey from athlete to amputee and on into the world of Paralympic triathlons, culminating in a gold medal at Rio in 2016.

Sleep and routines

As all the school has returned it has been interesting to observe how tired many of the students are. I would ask that as parents you work hard on getting the students back into a regular night time routine, a sensible bedtime and a distraction free bedroom (with the phone left elsewhere in the house). Poor sleep can be so corrosive to strong academic performance and we all need to work together to support good sleep patterns. Good sleep also links closely to attendance with students' health and immune systems often affected by poor sleep hence I hope this year we can get back to the strong attendance habits that we had in school before the pandemic of over 95% attending each day.



Results Day

GCSE Results day on 25 August seems a long time ago but was such a lovely occasion and I attach a photo of our happy students. The data supports the positivity of the day with our 4+ pass rate (a C grade in old money!) increasing from 49% in 2019 to 73% in 2022. This 24% increase far outstrips the 6% growth that was the average across the country. Some of our outstanding performers included:

- Akshaye D: four Grade 9s, four Grade 8s, one D**
- Alejandro D G: four Grade 9s, four Grade 8s
- Jack L: four Grade 9s and three Grade 8s
- Louis S: one Grade 9 and five Grade 8s
- Morgan E: two Grade 9s and eight Grade 8s, one D**
- Luciana H: three Grade 8s, one D**
- Jess H: four Grade 8s, three Grade 7s
- Amy C: one Grade 9, one Grade 8, five Grade 7s

In addition, we are delighted that the students are about to start their studies and working lives at such a great range of destinations. These include Kendrick School, Reading School, Piggott School, Highdown School, Kennet School, Berkshire College of Agriculture, Henley College and Reading College as well as a range of apprenticeships. The breadth of destinations is a strong indication of the robust careers advice for the students in ensuring they understand their possible destinations after Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge.



Nuts

Can I just remind all parents that we are a nut free school and therefore please do not send your children in with any foods containing nuts. We have had an issue with this earlier this week which could have been easily avoided.

Buses, clubs and Homework Club

I know that this week has been a little difficult with our bus provision. I have liaised with Reading Buses several times in order to ensure a long-term solution is found. I hope that the duplicate 83 bus picking up around Caversham Park Village will make a difference. In the longer term the 82 will be re-routed and we will provide an updated timetable for this service next week.

Can I also remind you that the 25 bus now stops at school at 4.22pm on each weekday which will support the school in the delivery of its extra-curricular programme, extra classes and the attendance of sanctions. As our clubs including Homework Club begin next week this could be something that your son or daughter may wish to use.

Staff star of the week

My staff star of the week goes to Ms Benham our Assistant Head who has hosted two Parent Welcome evenings on her first week back at school after maternity leave. Her dedication is thoroughly appreciated.

Student stars of the week

In Year 7 it goes to Summer for having had an amazing start at MECE. She has a brilliant attitude to learning, she is always positive and has been supporting her peers!

In Year 8 it goes to Jack W (8A) for being a great buddy to a new student.

In Year 10 it goes to Chloe and Alana for excellent support of a new student.

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

Have a great weekend and stay safe and thank you for your ongoing support

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

