



23 September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are well and were able to find some time for relaxation and reflection over our extended bank holiday weekend.

Service of Commemoration

Last Friday the school came together to hold a Service of Commemoration for the Queen. Miss Bliss, Miss Shepherd and I, as well as our head students Corey and Millie led the students through readings, reflection and history. We felt it was important to ensure our students understood the events of the weekend and the contribution of the Queen to our country alongside Charles' ascension to the throne and what will happen next. I must say I was absolutely blown away by the positive response of the students towards the event, arriving in perfect silence, listening intently and leaving with a hushed calm. It said a lot about our culture as a school and the students understanding and respect.



Hot Chocolate with the Head

I began today with the pleasurable experience of having a hot chocolate with around fifteen Year 7 students who had produced an excellent piece of work for the Headteacher's Challenge. These regular events not only give the chance to say 'well done' and 'thank you' to all of the attendees but also to garner some feedback on how things are going from the student's perspective. As you can see there are lots of smiling faces from those in attendance earlier today and lots of really positive feedback to pass on to my staff.



Year 7 Parent Welcome meeting

On Thursday evening we held our Year 7 Parent Welcome evening. It was great to see almost 80 families represented at this evening. My thanks go to Miss Bliss, Miss Cheeseman and Ms Benham who all delivered presentations on how to navigate and make a success of Year 7. These high levels of parental engagement from our Year community are very pleasing and bode well for the future of the school, as student success stems from the trinity of student, school and home all working together and with the same purpose.

Author visit

On Wednesday we were incredibly fortunate to be visited by author, Jess Butterworth, who wrote 'Running on the Roof of the World'. This book is about friendship and hope. Set in Tibet also looks at concepts such as refugees, conflict and growing up in a war zone. It was given to all of our new Year 7 students before the summer holidays to read as part of our whole school reading strategy. Ms Butterworth came in and held an hour long workshop with the students exploring some of the key themes of the book to enhance the student's understanding still further. The session ended with our four competition winners having lunch with Jess and as you can see from their smiling faces, they thoroughly enjoyed and felt pride at obtaining their prize.





Open Mornings, Open Evening and early close

We have also welcomed almost 60 families to look around the school for Open Mornings this week as we build up to our Open Evening on Tuesday, 27 September. This is a big day in the life of the school calendar and we will be putting on our best front so that we can maintain our momentum of a growing student roll. It is also pleasing to see just how many of our students are contributing to the event as guides and departmental helpers to allow us to show the school off with our most valued assets, the students.

Please be reminded that we will be closing early on Tuesday to allow our staff to prepare for the evening. Lessons will end at 1.25pm and buses will leave shortly afterwards. We will be open as normal on Wednesday.

CESA

I would like to take this opportunity to plug our Parent Teacher Association, CESA. CESA work for the school raising funds for student facing projects through the holding of quizzes, bingo nights, cross country events and school show refreshments etc. As ever they are looking for volunteers and fresh ideas and they would like to invite you to their AGM on 3 October at 7pm at MECE. Suzanne and the team do sterling work and I hope we will see you there or at one of the events later in the term starting with Annual CESA Quiz on 14 October. The Quiz was great fun last year, made all the more entertaining by our resident erudite quizmaster, Mr Rob Perry and with great food from Mrs Boden, our School Catering Manager.

The 16.22 bus

This seems to have sorted itself out now from Reading Buses end and I am delighted that the bus turned up each day this week. Yesterday, about 15 students from a variety of clubs (Debate club, Higher Maths, Dance Club and Homework Club) all got the bus together which was really pleasing to see.

Letting Assistant vacancy

We are currently recruiting a Lettings Assistant at school. If you or anyone you know may be interested, please click on the link below for more details of the role which is for evenings and Saturdays and helps us to provide a wonderful service for the community hosting groups such as choirs, kids and adult sport groups, dance school etc.

[Recruitment Adverts \(maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk\)](http://maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk)

Colds

As ever, the first few weeks of social mixing means we have a number of students off with colds. Attendance is so vital for academic progress so please be reminded that we can support students with medication such as paracetamol if parents give permission.

Stars

My staff star this week is **Miss Cheeseman** for her support of the Open Mornings, Open Evening and the smooth, professional manner in which she has handled the Year 7 transition into secondary school.

My student stars of the week are **Fletcher** in Year 11 for his incredibly positive start to the year and **Charlotte** in Year 10 who recently competed in France in an international kayak competition, winning her race! Go Charlotte!!

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

Take care and have a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley

