



30 September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

It's been another busy week for us!

### Open Evening

Our Open Evening on Tuesday was very well attended with some lovely feedback from the visiting families. Our guides, teachers, TAs, office team and site crew all pulled out all the stops to make our visitors feel both welcome and also excited by what our school has to offer. I have one particular quote from a family below which definitely made me smile!

*'Soooo impressed with MECE! You can feel how proud the staff are of what they have accomplished. Their passion for what they do is literally all over the walls and the students seem so happy! Please pass around how amazing their open days and evenings have been.... So impressed with MECE, it's my first choice.'*

Our fingers and toes are fully crossed for a full year group next September and based on the 300 families that have visited us in the last few months that would appear a strong possibility!

### Science Fair

Our Year 7 and 8s have been working on their scientific research over the last few weeks and there have been some lovely pieces of work that were submitted. The finalists are chosen to display their work before an audience. They are then quizzed on the impact and importance of the discoveries they have researched so that the judge can nominate a winner. A big thank you to Ms Hardman, Ms Kirby, Ms Swayne and Mrs Bosley for their work in setting this up and making it such a success.





### **Extra-Curricular groups and activities**

On Wednesday we had over 100 of our students (over 25% of the total) involved in different extra-curricular activities including rugby fixtures, girls indoor football, show rehearsals, boxing2fitness, extra maths, Space Club and extra dance lessons. This was a very impressive turn out and embodies what we are trying to give our students - a wider educational experience that really develops character and the transferable skills that are so valuable in adult life. I was particularly impressed with the Year 10 and 11 rugby team who put out 18 players despite a very small pool and performed admirably and with courage and conviction against two much more experienced schools. The team talk at the end from Mr Hunter was full of pride and the boys rightfully gave themselves a round of applause.

A huge thank you to all the teachers giving up so much of their time beyond their timetabled lessons to support our young people in such a variety of ways.

### **Astronomy Evening**

I will give a full write up next week but I am really looking forward to our Astronomy evening next Wednesday where we will be welcoming guests and telescopes from Reading Astronomy Club along with space rocks and materials from Rutherford Appleton laboratories. Any students who have received an invitation and are yet to reply who would like to attend should do so immediately. Look out for the cakes and hot chocolates for our budding astronomers!

### **MECE at the Weller Centre**

Miss Shepherd in her role as Pupil Premium Champion visited the Weller Centre on The Amersham Road Estate in Lower Caversham on Thursday morning to meet some of our families who find it difficult to visit our site in person. Miss Shepherd took various documentation and advice to support these families in getting the most from school. I am really proud at the way the school is reaching out into the community in such a way.

### **Mr Watterson goes for a run**

Our lovely Mr Watterson is running the London Marathon on Sunday. Running 26.2 miles is a great achievement but to do it and raise money for the brilliant charity, Young Minds, certainly deserves a round of applause. Mr Watterson's fund-raising page is linked below if any of you would like to support his sterling efforts. Thanks to those members of our community who have already donated!



[Twitter @MEChilternEdge](#)

### Behaviour

I had the unfortunate experience of suspending some students this week. Headteachers don't do this without due consideration, but these suspensions were necessary. In addition, I have had a number of students out of lessons on Friday working in silence on an extended day. Please can I ask that you discuss with your sons and daughters two clear messages. Firstly, please do not bring petty arguments and disagreements from outside of school into school. School is a place to learn and is a formal environment and therefore anyone wishing to behave in an unsafe manner that endangers other students and staff can expect to be sanctioned. In addition, please can you discuss with your son or daughter that we won't accept students disrespecting teachers, challenging their word or talking over their instructions. On Thursday almost 300 students received house points for a range of different things and 28 students received negative points for a range of behavioural indiscretions, mostly talking out of turn. On Tuesday night over 100 students helped at Open Evening and dazzled and shone and showed off our school with pride. These students make up the vast majority of our wonderful school and we are determined that these students will have the chance to learn, progress and prosper without interruption.

### CESA quiz

A quick reminder that we have our annual CESA quiz on 14 October with quizmaster Mr Robert "40 years at Chiltern Edge" Perry on the mic. Tickets are available [here](#).

### Governor nominations

Please also be reminded about nominations for a parent member for our governing body (also known as the LAB- Local Advisory Board). Schools rely on parents and other local volunteers taking an active role in the governing body and they act as an excellent mechanism for questioning and assuring that the school is operating correctly. The letter to parents regarding this was sent out earlier this week and a link can be found [here](#). I look forward to your interest in becoming an integral and vital part of our community.

### Stars

This week's staff star award goes to **Miss Shepherd** for her brilliant work in promoting excellence amongst our most needy students.  
My students stars of the week are –

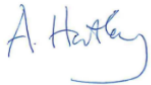
**Summer** in Year 7 for her superb speech at Open Evening. She certainly projected to the back of our very busy hall!

**William** and **Dylan** in Year 8 for attempting and correctly pronouncing 'Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlilllantysiliogogogoch' during the European Day of Languages assembly this week.

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

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley

