



11 November 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are all well.

School Culture

This week we have continued to work hard on our Core Routines and school culture. There is a focus on noticing students working correctly on being engaged and ready to learn and on completing homework. For Key Stage 3 this is also linked to the MECE Passport that is stuck in all the student's planners which encourages hard work, participation in the wider aspects of school life and homework completion. We cannot wait to give out our first awards later this term.

Our Habits of Attention poster is aimed at ensuring the students remain focused in their lessons so that everyone can learn free from disruption. It has been good to see staff referring to this poster and ensuring students do sit up, listen, answer questions, and track the speaker or the learning.



Of course, we have also been clear that those falling short of our expectations can expect to be sanctioned and it is with sadness that I have had to suspend some students this week who have not met our expectations. I only ever do this after consultation with my team so that I can

understand the wider context, but sometimes it is necessary so that the rest of the community can make progress.

Whilst these are incredibly early days, this week we have seen a reduced number of 'call outs' and a lower number of behaviour logs showing that these tweaks appear to be working. On Thursday, for example there were just shy of five hundred house points given out for positive endeavour and twenty-three examples of poor conduct showing most students have listened and understood this culture shift. Whilst I realise the ideal is no incidents of poor behaviour I am also pleased with the positive and incremental progress the week has demonstrated.

Whilst I spend time each day in lessons, I used Thursday morning's tutor time to see as many tutor groups as possible. It was a pleasure to see just how calm the school was and the range of activities going on.

Year 7 had a session with our Reading Ambassadors, Year 8 and 9 were tutor reading and looking at house points, Year 10 were with Ms Hardman listening to a presentation about their careers visit next week and Year 11 had a day at Henley College. It was good to see time was being used purposefully, the students had a calm start and study habits were set for the day.

Remembrance Service

As always, we held our short Remembrance Service in the Quad today. As you can see Mr Watterson played the Last Post on the trumpet and Year 7 stood in silence. Across the school, classes fell silent for two minutes to respect the sacrifice that our soldiers made for their country.



Stars of the week

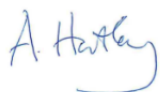
My student star goes to **Amelia** in Year 10 who is swimming 5K for Sport in Mind on 20 November. We wish her the absolute best of luck in swimming just over three miles (Wow!). The link to Amelia's Just Giving page is [here](#) just in case you want to support this great cause. This act by Amelia typifies her selfless, committed, 'can do' attitude.

My staff star of the week goes to **Mrs Reilly** our exams officer who has just finished a very well organised and perfectly executed set of Year 11 exams. The students behaved impeccably but the expectations were made clear and the smooth operation of all the moving parts ensured success. Mrs Reilly is one of those colleagues who just gets on with it but is so meticulous and accurate. It is an immense pleasure to have her in the MECE team.

Please click on the boxes below to leave us any feedback.

Wishing you all a restful autumnal weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley

