



18 November 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you've all been able to stay dry across a very wet week. We certainly had to cope with a couple of leaks we didn't previously know we had!!

Remembrance

I began my week (or ended last week!) with the pleasure of attending the St John's Church, Kidmore End Remembrance Service. I was in attendance with our Head Students, Corey and Millie to lay a wreath on behalf of the MECE community. Moving forwards, I have a meeting with a local resident to discuss a more permanent memorial to three ex-MECE students who have died in combat since the 1980s and I will keep you updated on this.



Careers Conference

Our Year 10s were taken off to Ascot Racecourse for a careers conference (not in horse racing I hasten to add). It was good to speak to the students on their return as they discussed their conversations with the likes of Red Bull, the Royal Navy, the University of Law and many others. The purpose of the visit was to give the Year 10s a little more focus as they begin their GCSE journey. Not untypically some need to be a little more urgent in their approach to the examinations which are just 18 months away. We hope some of the messages and grade requirements that came from this excursion remain in the student's minds.

Review

We've been busy with visitors this week. Mary Davies, our former CEO and Lead Ofsted Inspector, came to visit us in a consultancy role. Mary spent two days meeting staff, holding pupil panels and visiting lessons. In addition, Sara Elliss, our Trust Director of Curriculum and Standards, also came on Wednesday to support this review which was part of our half termly review cycle. Mary's findings mirror our own view of the school with lots of positives regarding

student attitudes, the quality of teaching, the calm environment and the high quality of assessment but, as always, with some areas that we should keep working on.

These reviews and visits are important and give myself and my leadership team high quality feedback on our strengths and our areas to further develop. When Mary presents her full report in the near future I will share some of the key points.

COP27

It was a pleasure to witness a good number of our students spending an hour watching a live broadcast from COP27 in Egypt on Wednesday morning. Our Eco club students along other interested students crowded into the AV theatre to be a part of this global event. I hope they can inspire the world leaders to take some decisive actions!

Presentation Evening

Next Thursday will see our annual Presentation Evening take place where we reflect upon the events of the previous year and honour our students who have gone over and above in pursuit of academic glory. A full report will follow in my next newsletter on 2 December but if you are attending please pop over and say "hello".

Stars

My staff star of the week is **Ms Hardman** for being the lead on a number of excellent student projects this week and delivering staff training to boot.

My student stars of the week are **Lily-Ann** and **Ines**, both from Year 7.

Lily-Ann had a wonderful medal haul from her recent gymnastics competition in Milton Keynes. She won gold for her bars performance and silver for her floor work and her overall score was rewarded with a silver medal.



Ines competed in a regional qualifier for her Ballroom and Latin dancing last Sunday 13th November. She managed to get through the rounds to the final for both her Quickstep in Ballroom and her Jive in Latin. She then got 3rd place for both, and qualified for the 'National

Ballroom Medallist of the Year Grand Final Competition' at the Empress Ballroom Winter Gardens in Blackpool next July 2023.Great work Ines!



It is great to see our students doing so well and showing determination and desire to work hard in all aspects of their life.

Please click on the blocks below to leave us any feedback you may have.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hartley".

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

