



2 December 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are all well and keeping Covid and flu free. There's definitely a lot of it about isn't there!?

This is the difficult fifth week of the half term when energy levels are always at their lowest ebb, however I have been pleased by the overall 'state of play' this week. The staff were brilliant on Wednesday, when a range of commitments for my leadership team and I meant that my teaching and support teams rallied around to cover lunchtime duties and on calls. Similarly, the majority of the students have remained calm and focused and determined to do well across the week.

### Attendance

Whilst I concede that there is a lot of illness around, please can I insist that as parents you do your utmost to send your children to school. It goes without saying, that being in school is so important to the academic progress of each student. Whilst I know some absence during the winter months is unavoidable our Attendance Officer, Mrs Worth and Mrs Green, our Educational Welfare Officer feel there are a number of absences that could easily be avoided.

### Presentation Evening

Last Thursday we held our annual Presentation Evening. It was a truly wonderful evening and gave us all a chance to reflect on the many extraordinary and wonderful achievements and events that pepper the school calendar. Often as Headteacher, as you live and breathe each day in the school you forget to step back and see some of the incredible young people we have at MECE but this evening brought those achievers and go getters thoroughly into focus. The evening also saw excellent speeches from our students reflecting on their academic journey, their work as an anti-bullying officer or their work with Amnesty International alongside a thought provoking and heart-warming address from our CEO, Mr Jon Peck. He is pictured in the photograph alongside our Service to the School Winners, Akshaye and Harriot.



Below is a list of our prize winners from the night, look out for a full write up and more photographs in the end of term edition of MECEmatters!

Amelia P	Zoe T	Jaimie F	Isaac W
Poppy L	Theo R	Juan O	Amelia B
Daisy U	Aish K	Immy H	Chloe G
Amelia H	Mia t	Daisy M	Wilfred L
Alejandro D	Gabrielle P	Louis S	Morgan E

Erin C  
Joshua M  
Callum F  
Morgan E  
Imogen C

Alfie C  
Mia L  
Jess C  
Sophia J  
Akshaye D

Ben W  
Emmanuel N  
J'Nikea S  
Erin M  
Harriot B

Grace B  
Amelia H  
Natasha P  
Samuel S

### Girls' football

Our very own MECE Lionesses have been in action this week as the girls' football season has kicked off. We have some very talented female footballers, not least Poppy in Year 7 who scored twice for the Year 8 and 9 team on Tuesday evening in their 3-2 victory over Cranford House. However, Honey's piledriver from the halfway line also deserves some credit! In addition, Year 10 and 11 won 1 and lost 1 as did the Year 7 team on Thursday evening. Overall though, a fantastic week's football and well done to everyone who took part and wore the MECE badge with pride!

### Microsoft

Last Friday, with school site closed for most staff, I spent a brilliant day with 16 volunteers from Microsoft who as part of their contract are required to volunteer to three days of community work each year. I was lucky to make the link with one of their team leaders and all was arranged for Friday. The day turned out even better than I imagined with our allotment tidied and dug, 200 trees donated by the Woodland Trust planted, the minibus washed, a wall painted, and the majority of windows washed. We can't wait for them to come back in the Spring to do some painting for us!



### Lifestyle app

I met ex-England and Exeter Chiefs rugby star, Tom Johnson on Tuesday. Tom is developing an app that students and staff can use to monitor their sleep, sugar intake, exercise and general wellbeing and he has invited us to be a part of the pilot from January. We will be selecting a Year 7 tutor group for this work and I will keep you up to date with our progress on it.

### CESA raffle

Please don't forget to get your sons and daughters to return their raffle tickets. Firstly, there are some amazing prizes to be won including an air fryer, £100 John Lewis voucher. £50 Marks and Spencer voucher, champagne, Ascot Races tickets and much more. Additionally, this is such a brilliant way to raise money for CESA. CESA have just donated a generous sum to support various initiatives including more computer equipment, a French play, Maths revision books for Year 11, History revision books, a Maths workshop for Year 7 and 8 and some ukuleles! We are both fortunate as a school to have such a great PTA and eternally grateful for their support and effort.

## School Show and LAMDA



The school show is rapidly approaching, and rehearsals have been continuing apace. Yesterday, information about how to purchase tickets was sent out. We hope many of you will come to see our production of *A Christmas Carol* on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> December. For anyone who is inspired to seek further acting opportunities should have a look at the LAMDA qualifications that students can gain with RABBLE Theatre at MECE in January. Information was sent out with details a few weeks ago.

**We can't wait for the performances on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>!**

## Stars

My student star this week is **Millie** in Year 11 who has just been awarded a fully funded place at the selective girls' school, St Helen and St Katharine's, for her Sixth Form studies. Millie is an amazing young lady who thoroughly deserves her award and place at this highly selective institution.

My staff star of the week is **Miss Bliss** for her brilliant organisation and execution of Presentation Evening last Thursday. She ensured that the hall sparkled and that the event ran incredibly smoothly, leaving us all with a lovely feeling of achievement and success when it was over!

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

Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely

Andy Hartley  
Headteacher

