



09 December 2022



Dear Parent/Guardian

Weather and buses

I hope you are all well and are managing to keep warm in these bitter weather conditions. The closure of Caversham Road on Thursday morning certainly tested the coats and warm weather gear of our students as they were left at bus stops across North Reading for around 30 minutes longer than normal. I must applaud their fortitude for sticking it out and being so calm in adversity.

Show - A Christmas Carol

Our annual school show takes place next week, tickets are still available to purchase on ParentPay. Our shows are always great examples of our school community working together and really supporting each other. The show provides so many students with personal development opportunities and I believe it is such an important part of our nourishment of the character of our students. We can't wait to see you there! CESA will be running a bar on both Tuesday and Thursday with snacks and refreshments available before the show and at the interval. Moreover, in the interval on Thursday our CESA Christmas raffle draw will be taking place with some fantastic prizes up for grabs:

- A Ninja Air Fryer worth £300
- £100 John Lewis Voucher
- £50 Marks and Spencer Voucher
- 2 tickets to Ascot Races worth £50



Raffle tickets will be available to purchase on both nights of A Christmas Carol and in doing so you will be supporting our wonderful school and the students within it.

Visitors

I have had another three rounds of visitors this week and each time, I have taken a school tour. It has been very interesting to look at the strong quality of the work, the understanding of the students of the lessons and where they fit in the five-year learning sequence of each subject, along with behaviour during each lesson. Andy Johnson, the MET Trust Director of Education, was with me on Tuesday morning and was very pleased to see the work we are doing and the smooth operation of the school. I have also observed our two Early Career Teachers as a part of their termly assessment and I was delighted with the quality of work that the students were producing.

Behaviour

As a follow up to the recent parent forum, I have done some work with a Year 10 group which I will roll out with other classes. The class took a questionnaire on behaviour which we collated and presented back to them and some of their teachers. They discussed what they liked in lessons and how teachers could support them to be successful along with their frustrations. It

has been a useful exercise and has corresponded with an overall fall in their behaviour events. Indeed, since we have launched our push on behaviour in early November, I have been pleased with the fall in events, especially as we are now at the end of a long term when tiredness creeps in from both staff and students. In comparing the first week of this half term to the fifth week we saw a fall in 'Unacceptable Classroom Conduct' events from 121 to 87 (you must remember that 400 students taking 5 lessons a day over 5 days offers 10000 opportunities for poor behaviour to be logged). This fall of around 28% is very positive news and corresponds with the 'feel' of the school over the last 2 weeks. Of course, there has been the odd bump in the road, but we will keep going with both the students and the staff to further improve our standards and keep our expectation visible and a high priority at all times.

Bus behaviour

I have worked closely with the bus company in the last two weeks using the bus CCTV and as a result we unfortunately identified some students who needed a sanction resulting in them not being able to get the bus home for a period. Please can I ask you to speak to your children, firstly about positive conduct on the bus and secondly to request that they report anything that does occur as this allows us to take positive action to keep the bus safe for everyone.

Oxford Science Trip



On Thursday, fourteen of our students visited The Museum of Natural History in Oxford for their Christmas lecture series. The lectures were on evolution and the birth of the universe and they participated in some hands-on museum activities. The students, chosen from those who attend some of the range of extra-curricular science clubs, had a fantastic time!

Stars

My staff star of the week is **Mr Hunter** who has coped with a range of adverse factors this week, including feeling under the weather. He has done so always with a positive attitude and the best interests of the MECE students at heart. He is continuously selfless in his giving of his time and positivity.

My student star of the week is **Alfie B** in Year 7 who topped the House Point list for the whole school in the last week. He has a wonderfully positive attitude to school, is consistently cheerful and polite and I'm sure he will go on to great success in the future!

Please leave any feedback you may by clicking on the links below.

Take care and stay warm

Yours sincerely

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

