



6 January 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone managed to spend some high-quality family time together over the Christmas break (although after being back for four days the break feels a long time away now!).

End of Term

The end of term was simply lovely with our Christmas dinner, the school show, Year 11 distributing Christmas cards and a wonderful set of rewards assemblies. In fact, the final act of the term was the whole staff coming out to wave the buses off on the final Friday which says a lot about our community. If you haven't done please do look at our Twitter account for the video of Year 7 and 8 all singing The 12 Days of Christmas with real gusto!

Attendance and uniform

We have been pleased that the attendance has been very positive this week and that the vast majority of students have returned having the correct uniform and Tools for Learning. Please can I ask that parents keep up their vigilance as there were still a few gaps in things such as protractors and glue sticks, both of which are really important equipment. Please remember that we sell these items at cost price in our Student Services shop.

It was also pleasing to see that the one or two nose studs that had crept in during the last few weeks of term have been removed as per our longstanding dress code and uniform expectations.

Coats

Can I also make a plea regarding coats. Our dress code stipulates dark coats in blue or black, however one or two variations have crept in. I realise that a coat is an expensive purchase and that in the current economic crisis we face it would be crass and tactless to ask parents to buy another coat at this stage. However, moving forwards, please can I ask that no coats outside of these colours are bought and we will not be permitting them in school from September 2023.




Core Routines


This week, as I always do in the first week of term, I have been leading our assemblies. I have focused on our Core Routines and expectations that we launched in early November; pictures of which are included below. The strong routines seemed to work well with a 28% drop in recorded low level disruption across the half-term.

I have asked that we build on these routines still further this term with a focus on all learners becoming more 'cognitively active' in lessons. That means I want our students to be more engaged in lessons and have asked staff to work on two particular tweaks. One is that students look at their peers when they are speaking in lessons, giving their full attention to their words. This is intended to increase focus and also to allow staff to draw students into a higher level of discussion based on their peers' responses. The second amendment is asking students to write their 'first thoughts' before they answer a question orally. It is designed to give all students the chance to consider their ideas and give them thinking time. We will be




launching these initiatives on Monday and I hope they will continue to enhance the classroom experience for our students.

MECE Core Routines

 SLT Arrival Duty	 Entry Routine	 Silence is Golden
 Morning Address	 Exit Routine	 Signal, Pause, Insist
 Equipment	 Transitions	 Habits of Attention



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE

-  **S** Sit up in silence
-  **L** Listen attentively
-  **A** Ask and answer questions
-  **N** No communication with your peers unless instructed to do so
-  **T** Track the speaker or the learning

Staff care about me and my future.

I never answer back, roll my eyes, mutter
under my breath or refuse to follow
teacher instructions.

Staff are here to help me be my best, so I
treat them with total respect.

TREAT STAFF LIKE

PLATINUM

Illness prevention

The government and Oxfordshire County Council have both made statements regarding the current cold, flu and Strep outbreaks and the bullet points of advice are below. I hope all the MECE families are able to avoid these infections and we will be bringing back hand sanitiser and class tissue supplies over the next few weeks to combat this.

- *If a child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better, and the fever has resolved.*
- *Teach children the importance of good hand hygiene, practice regular handwashing with soap and warm water.*
- *Catch coughs and sneezes in tissues then bin them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.*
- *Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if they do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.*
- *Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus.*

Upcoming events

This half-term sees our Year 9 options process launch on 24 January with Year 9 Parents' evening taking place on 7 February just before half-term. Year 10 Parents' Evening occurs just after half term on 2 March and I would ask both parents to make sure all of those dates are in the family diary. Parent evenings provide an invaluable opportunity to discuss progress and in the case of Year 9 Parents' Evening, to discuss suitability for GCSE and BTEC options.

Lottery

CESA are re-launching their school lottery this week. A separate letter has been sent regarding how to sign up and please can I encourage you to do so. A small weekly donation will help us to build up a large pot of money which can be used to support a range of great projects that will support our students. And hopefully you might win some money along the way!!

Stars of the week

My student star of the week is **Samantha** in Year 8. Samantha was an absolute hero during the school show, where at 3 hours' notice she stepped in to play Bob Cratchit's wife (not a small part by any means!). Samantha played the part with real confidence and poise and one can only praise her for her self-confidence to agree to such an undertaking.

My staff star of the week is **Mrs Brown**, our Music teacher, for her fabulous contributions to our end of term celebrations (including coming in on her days off!!)

Please click on the links if you would like leave us any feedback.

Take care.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley

