



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

Headteacher: Mr A Hartley
BA(Hons) PGCE

Reades Lane, Sonning Common,
Reading, RG4 9LN
0118 972 1500
MECEoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk
@MEChilternEdge

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope everyone had a good half-term break and the children were all able to recharge themselves.

This week has been a very busy one with lots going on.

OFSTED

On Thursday we were visited by a senior OFSTED inspector who came to look at our history department as an example of best practice. Our visitor looked at a selection of books, met student panels, visited lessons and spent some time with Miss Shepherd and Miss Bliss. I am very pleased to report that she thought our history curriculum was an excellent piece of academic thinking that both relates to the students' lives and supports their understanding of the world. She also complimented the way we work at improving our students recall and knowledge through rigorous and consistent questioning. Our students were described as loyal, delightful and proud to be MECE students and she was very positive about both quality and quantity of the work in our books.

In the last three and half years we have come a long way in terms of our curriculum and expectations and it is great to see it passing muster under this most focused of spotlights.

Parliament Trip

Mr Yarwood took a group of students to the Houses of Parliament today and I am pleased to report that they were wonderful ambassadors for the school. As well as attending the public gallery, the students toured the Parliament buildings and this culminated in a Q&A with John Howell, the Conservative MP for Henley on Thames.



Assembly

This week I delivered an assembly on the power of practice and discussed the neuroscience of what practice does to the brain. By repeating activities, such as, a physical process or practising a similar style of problem, a build-up of myelin wraps around the axons (essentially the neural pathways) allowing information to more rapidly move from the brain. We also reflected on the need to practice device free, to take frequent breaks and to do things often if we want to ensure mastery and progress. I hope the students can take this on board in terms of their own work and their progress and futures.

Bus Behaviour

I wanted to let you know that Reading Buses have imposed a lengthy ban on one of our students who has behaved poorly towards a member of the public. The bus company and I used CCTV from the bus to identify the student who was travelling on a public bus one morning this week. Please do discuss the consequences of poor conduct on the bus with your sons and daughters and also do keep us informed if you hear of any poor conduct on the bus as I am keen to ensure that poor behaviour issues are eradicated.

Fixtures

I am indebted to a number of staff who have been involved in fixtures this week. This half term has netball and football leagues running on each week, which definitely keeps things busy. Especial thanks to Mr Hunter and Miss Cheeseman for their work alongside Mr Perry, Miss Jackson and Mr Watterson for ensuring we can cover all bases. There have also been lots of positives including a netball victory over Gillotts by the Year 8/9 girls, a good win over Icknield and a draw against Wallingford by the Year 10/11 boys football team. The Year 7 boys team made their seasonal debut with a narrow 2-1 loss versus Gillotts, which was frustrating. Despite our small size we seem to be able to put out some very competitive teams.

Strike

Whilst the strike is covered in a separate communication can I just clarify we will only be open for Year 11 students and key worker children and other identified students next Thursday. I can only apologise for this but the rules around setting work and non-striking colleagues not covering for absent colleagues make it impossible to have more students in school and have them safely supervised.

Stars of the week

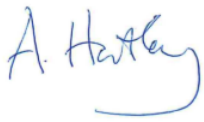
My staff star of the week is **Miss Shepherd** for her exemplary professionalism in supporting our work with OFSTED alongside the launch of our Duke of Edinburgh expedition preparations.

My student star of the week is **Shantae**, in Year 8, for her phenomenal performance on the netball court this week.

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

Have a great weekend and take care.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

