



24 March 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian

I will attempt to be upbeat today but I think I speak for all the staff when I say there is a high level of fatigue in the staffroom by the end of this week. However, with Easter on the horizon I am sure things will perk up next week. Just a quick reminder that we don't have an early finish on the last day of term. This is to enable all students, but especially Year 11, the opportunity to maximise their learning opportunities as we are so close to the GCSE examinations. Year 11 will also be able to further sharpen their revision skills and knowledge at our Easter School which is over three days in the second week of the break.

Ramadan

I'd like to wish our Muslim families 'Ramadan Kareem' and may Allah bless you and your loved ones with good health and happiness during this special time. Our staff are aware of which students are fasting and will endeavour to support these members of the MECE community over the next four weeks.

Parent Forum

On Wednesday I held a Parent Forum for Year 7 parents as I sought their contributions on a project to finalise our school values. These are the behaviours and personal qualities we want our students to aspire to and work on during their time at MECE and this project will be officially launched later in the school year. I also took the opportunity to look at 'what's going well' and 'even better if' and this is always important information as we continuously review our performance and plan for the future.

Recruitment

I've been out at The Hill and Emmer Green primary school's this week meeting and speaking to Year 5 students and parents. We have seen a real growth in our intake from these schools and I was keen to spread the positive messages. It was good to see that what we are trying to achieve as a school, correlates closely with what parents are seeking in their school choice.

Ruth Perry

The tragedy of Ruth Perry's death has been very prominent in the press in the last week and with this, the role and impact that an OFSTED inspection has on a school and its staff. Undoubtedly, school's do need to be accountable for what they teach, how they teach and the progress the students make, however the pressure the current inspection system creates on a school is often intolerable, as Ruth's death highlights. I hope that Ruth's case, and the groundswell of opinion and emotion that her story has generated, does lead to a reconsideration of the inspection system moving to something more collaborative and developmental. In the meantime, our thoughts continue to be with Ruth's family and all those associated with Caversham Primary School.

Stars

My student star of the week for is **Poppy E** in Year 7 for having a great week at school with 3 x golden tickets in one week, 20 house points in total and an amazing performance in the netball fixture last night.

My staff star of the week is **Ms Rixson**, our Inclusion Manager, who has worked very hard this term to reshape how the Hive works and yet still maintain a superb level of service for students. It is a pleasure to work with her and see the impact she has on our student body.

Please click on any of the links below if you would like to leave us some feedback

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

