



12 May 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope everyone is well and managing to stay dry despite the rather damp weather and that you enjoyed the Coronation weekend whichever way you chose to spend the event. It has been another short week but one with many positive points.

Chelsea's Choice

On Thursday afternoon we hosted the Alter Ego Theatre Company performing 'Chelsea's Story', a play about the dangers of Child Sexual Exploitation. The perils of social media and staying safe online as well as the hard-hitting central topic held the children's attention very firmly across the afternoon and this was commented upon by our visitors. I hope through events such as this we can continue to educate our young people into making positive choices in the very complex world that modern adolescents now inhabit.



Assemblies and re-set

I'd also like to thank Mr Watterson for his excellent assemblies to Year 7,8 and 9 promoting the value of education through the life of Malala and linking it to our re-set that we held on Tuesday morning. I also witnessed a large group of Year 7s receiving their STEM club awards which they were very proud to attain.



We have seen a big push this week on punctuality, uniform, tools for learning and conduct in lessons. I have been really pleased by the improvements in the many of these areas and we will keep our checks and sanctions going to further improve this next week.

Please do make sure your son or daughter arrives at school dressed with all of their uniform, a full set of Tools for Learning and ready to go for the week when school restarts on Monday.

Governors

Our governing body were in school on Thursday afternoon, observing lunchtime and period 5 and also meeting a selection of Year 7 students to gather a broader insight into the life of the school. They were delighted by what they observed but also gained some good insight into the dynamic between the older and younger students.

World of Work Week for Year 10

Next week sees our Year 10s embark on a range of activities supporting their journey into adulthood. There will be talks from employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges and other professionals involved in employment. Perhaps the pinnacle of the week is when 71 out of the 75 students will be on work placements for the day, getting a hands-on understanding of life beyond the school gates. After 5 days of exams this week I hope the week can provide a good contrast but also a good stimulus to the college, employment and sixth form applications that are soon to follow.

Inter-house shrapnel challenge

A huge thank you to the MECE families who have sent their children in with pocketfuls of small change this week. As you can see from the photo this has been a great addition to our fundraising with CESA. Many thanks to Suzanne and the team for organising and to Mr Hunter and the Heads of House who manned the tables during lunchtimes.



Mary Davies

One of my personal highlights this week was seeing Mary Davies, our recently retired CEO, pick up her MBE from the Prince of Wales at Windsor Castle. Mary took the Trust from a small entity into the ever-growing organisation it is today. I find Mary's energy and appetite for work inspiring. Furthermore, under her leadership, the Trust never choose to take on easy schools,

but always looked for institutions that required some work and turnaround. As a result, Mary's legacy on the local and national educational landscape is profound.



Stars of the week

My staff star of the week for amazing work supporting students gaining work experience placements is Nichole Grace:

'I would like to nominate Nichole Grace for recognition this week as I felt she went way over & above her duties liaising with myself & my daughter (Amelia 10C) in helping to secure a work experience placement. Nichole worked with Amelia & within 2 days she had arranged a sports physio placement!!'

My student star of the week is Charlie G in Year 9 who will be representing England at Ice Hockey this weekend. What a fantastic achievement and we wish Charlie all of our MECE best wishes for a great performance!

Please leave any feedback you have using the links below.

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

