



16 June 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Hot! Hot! Hot!

Summer has truly arrived and so have the high temperatures in the classrooms. The maths rooms have been particularly warm but we have managed to source some cooling systems and fans that should make any heat a little more bearable moving forwards. That said, it has been a bit of a scramble from some staff as they try and book the air-conditioned IT rooms for their lessons!

I have also been pleased that all but a few students have been sensible in the way they have been filling water bottles at break and lunch and lesson transitions. In the past, too many students have tried to get water during lessons but we appear to be getting into better study habits.

Line Ups

In terms of our Line Ups, these are going really well and are a great way of getting the year groups set up for the day, of celebrating achievements and promoting our values. For example, on Thursday we praised Dylan in Year 7 for his 100%s in his recent Maths papers, Emmanuel in Year 8 for his excellent performance at Quadkids and Samantha for stepping in and supporting the team when they a person down. We also used the opportunity to check everyone had their reading books for Drop Everything and Read which takes place today.

Hot Chocolate with the Head

I had a lovely Hot Chocolate with some Year 7 students this week. I always use the opportunity to ask them about the school. They were full of praise for the school and the space they have, the way the staff look after them and support them, the clubs on offer, the food and so many of the lessons and staff. In terms of improvement points (and I'm always a little nervous of the answers here!) they mentioned the high number of lesson covers – and I share their frustration - as well as wanting more table tennis tables, less rounders, more plugs in science(!) and a lick of paint here and there. It gave me great heart that their improvement points were relatively cosmetic and that their overall educational and social experience at the school was so positive.



Parent Forum

Please don't forget to sign up for our upcoming parent forum where we will be getting your feedback on our new reports and also doing a site walk as we take your views on how we can improve the facilities. It's on 28 June at 6.30pm. Please click on the link [here](#) to take you to the booking form.

Year 10 Exam Results

Our Year 10 exam results came out this week. As ever these results can be a shock to the system for some who haven't made the shift to GCSE studies. Similarly, even to those who have studied hard, the breadth of knowledge required and the complexity of questions can be a shock when encountered under the stark light of the examination hall. However, there were a good number of students who did really well and I will be meeting them next week for a celebratory hot chocolate and a well done.

Head Students

We were proud to reveal our new Head Students this week. They are Gabby P, Ben W and Henry M. They came through a rigorous process of letters of application, hustings speeches and interviews. Both their student peers and the staff cast their support before the winners were announced. These students will represent the school in many events, talking to parents, delivering speeches and acting as student ambassadors for the school and therefore it was right that the application process was so rigorous. Judging by the high quality of their speeches this is going to be a vintage year for student leadership at MECE.

Assembly

This week saw Miss Shepherd deliver a brilliant assembly on Pride Week and what it means and where it has come from and why people choose to celebrate it. As you can see from the photo, the students were very focused and appreciative of her passion and enthusiasm and the fascinating topic.



Stars

My student stars of the week this week go to **Charlie, Jack and Spencer** in Year 8 who went out with Miss Shepherd to the afternoon tea organised by FISH in Sonning Common and performed a number of songs to the residents. They must have been good as they've been booked to go back and for another residential care home! I also had the pleasure of observing them performing Smells Like Teen Spirit (they didn't perform this at the FISH afternoon tea!)

to their class as part of the brilliant House Music competition that Mrs Brown is running at the moment. It is a splendid event and the students are loving the opportunity to show off their best songs.

In addition, the award also goes to **Ben and Oliver** in Year 10 who gave up their Saturday to volunteer at the Sonning Common Village Day at Memorial Park. I have had numerous comments on what wonderful representatives of the school they were.

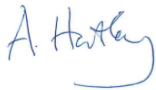
My staff star of the week goes to **Mr Perry** who has returned after being poorly but has been brilliant with the students all week and I know they have really appreciated his input and teaching.

Please do not hesitate to leave any feedback using the links below.

And lastly, there won't be a newsletter next week as I'm camping out with the Duke of Edinburgh expedition students from Year 10. Wish me luck!

Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

