



14 July 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

This has been another week, where far from winding down, we have been moving at breakneck speed with a succession of events that have involved different parts of the school. Nevertheless, we are going into the weekend with a contented smile as it has been another positive week for us here at MECE.

Sports Day

This was by far the most successful of sports days since the house system was reborn in 2020-2021. The students participated at greater levels than ever before, they cheered louder than ever before and they conducted themselves even better than ever before!

The races were of a high quality but what shone through was the fantastic way in which students congratulated each other along with the fact that winning clearly meant something to so many of them! However, the cheers for the final placed runners were also just brilliant. Our values of 'being inclusive' and 'working together' shone through throughout the day, as did the desire of so many of our students to 'aim high'.

The day finished with Chiltern House taking the glory and my goodness, the shrill cacophony that followed the announcement was quite something! However, it was also a wonderful encapsulation of what we want the House system to mean to our students. Miss Jackson is a great Head of House, and she has obviously inspired her 'team' to victory.



Transition

We have had our Year 6 transition events throughout the week, and I have been delighted by both the levels of parent engagement but also the loveliness of the students that are about to enter our community. Our Monday night event for parents saw us putting out extra chairs! It is so pleasing to be able to even say that! The evening was great, and I am grateful to Mr Spicer and Mr McEvoy, two of our new teachers, for coming over and meeting their new tutor groups. The two transition days were also great and culminated in our Big Sing event led by Mrs Brown who came in on her day off to lead the massed singing. The new MECE Year 7 have been sparky, fun, articulate and full of academic desire and we can't wait for them to get started in September. What is also pleasing within the new group is how many siblings of older students

and additionally how many of our own staff are sending their children to our school; two ringing endorsements of what we are doing.

Headteacher recruitment

Next Monday and Tuesday are significant days for the school and will see five interviewees being put through their paces by students and staff in a variety of presentations, assemblies, learning walks and interviews before the appointment is made. The field of applicants was a strong one and it has been shortlisted down to a formidable group of interviewees and I am sure a very strong appointee can be selected from this group.

The last day of term

Please be reminded that school finished at 12.30pm next Friday and the buses will depart at that time.

The start of next year

We will add the following dates to your website and write to you once again in August but please be informed of slightly staggered starting times for different year groups.

School will re-open for Year 7 at 8.40am on Tuesday 5 September

School will re-open for Year 8 at 8.40am on Wednesday 6 September

School will re-open for Year 9 at 8.40am on Wednesday 6 September

School will re-open for Year 10 at 8.40am on Wednesday 6 September

School will re-open for Year 11 at **10.30am** on Tuesday 5 September

These different dates will allow for a smooth start to the start of next year for all students.


Stars of the week

My first student star of the week goes to **Ruby** in Year 10 in recognition of her qualifying for the British National Showjumping championships last weekend. Ruby works hard at her riding and this disciplined and dedicated attitude has really paid off.



In addition, **Eleanor** in Year 9 received 2nd place in the wonderfully entitled 'Tunnock's Teacake Challenge 2023'. What is fantastic about this is the other prize winners are largely from grammar schools or independent schools, however our Eleanor with her amazing design and wonderful accompanying rubric, got right in there with her second place.

2023 Tunnock's Teacake Challenge UNDER 14 2ND PRIZE



Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School
Marbled Teacake

My design meets the shapes and patterns brief as it has a continuous marble affect shown throughout and a hand sculpture which meets with the shapes aspect. My ideas were based off Ancient Greek architecture and they were known for their human sculptures and use of marble.

I made the hand by melting chocolate and pouring it into a mould. I then shaped it and once it had solidified I removed it from the mould. The sculpture on the hand is the tea cake and was covered in white chocolate. I then drew a marble effect on it with black food colouring. I repeated the same method with the swipe on the slab.

Lastly, it goes to **Renai** in Year 7 who is a talented and dedicated gymnast, and her dedication is now really paying off. Last week Renai trialed for the South Region Squad and was successful in being accepted. Additionally, she competed under FIG international rules on the weekend in Abingdon and was the youngest in her group. On the vault, she achieved a gold and on the beam and she received a silver.



My staff star of the week goes to **Miss Cheeseman** who has had Sports Day and Transition all within the same week. Another fantastic MECE week in which she has played a central role.

If you have any feedback, please do not hesitate to click on the links below.

Have a good weekend and take care.



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

