



29 September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope everyone is well and you looking forward to the weekend.

Open Evening

The week has flown by with the school high point being another very busy Open Evening. There were around 600 visitors on the night, and they got to hear myself, but most importantly, the Head Students and incumbent Headteacher, Briony Bowers, extol the virtues of the school. It was wonderful to see how many of our current students volunteered to help on the night and the feedback on the 'performance' was unanimously positive.

With around 250 families visiting the school between July and mid-October it bodes very well for another full year and a further increasing roll in 2024.

Jess Butterworth

We welcomed Jess Butterworth, the author of *Running on the Roof of the World*, to school on Thursday. Jess held a brilliant workshop with Year 7 who read the book over the summer holiday. She extolled the virtues of writing, being an author and how she creates stories. The Year 7s listened with intent and asked some brilliant questions.



Covid

Covid appears to be raising its head again. Can I remind parents that there is no statutory duty to test for Covid however, if a positive diagnosis is confirmed under 18s are asked to stay at home for three days.

INSET days and early closing

Please see the separate letter [here](#) regarding an extraordinary INSET day that the Maiden Erlegh Trust has scheduled for Friday 20 October following the cyber-attack in the summer.

In addition, the school will be closing at 1.30pm on Thursday 02 November for Cross Trust training. The buses are booked for this early finish.

Stars of the week

My star of the week is **Ms Biddiss** who has delivered assemblies, set cover work, been a Head of Year and completed her mentor training for supporting our new teachers. All this has been done with a smile on her face (albeit slightly strained at times!). The assemblies have been brilliant and really engage the students with the idea that languages and the ability to communicate is such a sought-after skill by employers. This is most certainly all about our value of aiming high.



My student stars of the week are **Charlotte** in Year 11 who achieved fourth place competing at Under 18 level for Team GB in her kayak last weekend. Charlotte's dedication and talent are propelling her to great heights, and we need to watch this space for the Olympics in 2028 or 2032!

In addition, **Fred** in Year 9 spent last Saturday evening sleeping rough with a sleeping bag and some cardboard as he raised money to support the Launchpad charity. Fred is a cracking young man and is involved a wide range of extra-curricular activities as well as always working hard in school. We are understandably proud of him as he embraces our value of being inclusive.



Please feel free to leave any feedback you via the links below.

Take care and enjoy the early autumnal warmth!

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

