



03 November 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope all our MECE families had a lovely half-term and were able to spend some high quality time together. We come back into another long half-term but one that is full of activity and community, ending with our school production of Mary Poppins on 18 & 19 December.

Success

I have been focusing our line-ups on recognising students who did well in the first half-term and who really reflect our Trust values of Aim High, Work Together and Be Inclusive. It has been positive to see how well the students have listened to this and how warmly they have applauded these names. This has been supported by an excellent set of assemblies from the Heads of Year around the subject of 'Success'.

Sporting values

On this topic, I was delighted to see one of our students singled out by The Henley Standard recently for his true sportsmanship. I'll let you read the article below, but this behaviour typifies what we are wishing to see from our students and for that reason **Matthew in Year 10 is our student Star of the Week.**

Boden shows good sportsmanship in comfortable win

A DEPLETED Henley Hawks U15s side that was missing players due to injury, ran out comfortable winners at Maidenhead U15s last Sunday.

The 17 players available for Henley put in a strong display against the Maidenhead development team.

Challenged with securing more ball at the breakdown than in previous games, the Henley team set about their task efficiently and effectively.

Many of the Henley team were playing out of their usual positions and changed position during the game but they adapted extremely well to their roles and set a strong half-time lead. Maidenhead had identi-

Maidenhead U15s	5
Henley Hawks U15s	48

fied Henley's tactics at half-time and started the second half with a strong defensive display, frustrating the Henley team's attacking efforts but ultimately the visitors managed to source more ball and run in second half tries to run out winners.

New Henley player Matt Boden put in a superb display of sportsmanship in the second half when, after crossing the line for what would have been a first try for the club, he let the referee know that he had in fact lost control of the ball before grounding it.



Safe hands: Henley's number eight Finn Mackenzie securing a ruck ball

PPEs

Year 11 have been sitting their PPE examinations (mocks) this week and it has been pleasing to hear how dedicated so many of them have been towards their revision over the half-term. This followed a three-week block of extra classes after school. The results are always full of ups and downs but provide the students with some clear pointers on how they can improve in preparation for the real exams next year. It will be exciting to see their results when we release them on results afternoon in early December.

PE opportunities

Due to a generous parental donation, we have been able to add to our PE equipment over the last few weeks and it has been lovely to see Mr Caldwell coming up to reception to collect his

new parcels that have included a new set of 9-a-side goals and four new table tennis tables. Mr Caldwell has made an excellent start as Head of PE and is incredibly good at applying for grants, getting students opportunities and using his wide network to improve our provision. Our initiative using Active Leaders and England Football to provide a girls' football coaching programme is a fine example of his work. In addition, we are finalising our links with Reading Rowing Club, have a new table tennis club with an external coach starting soon and are applying for an FA grant for new football goals. For these reasons, **Mr Caldwell is my Staff Star of the Week.**

Uniform support

Lastly, can I leave you with a plea that you check your son/daughter's uniform before they leave in the morning. This week we have been dressing students as they have arrived in jeans, tracksuits, trainers and other pieces of clothing that are not on our uniform list. This opens students to negative and challenging conversations to begin the school day which does not help them to enjoy or feel a sense of belonging to school. Please can I also remind you that blazers are a compulsory part of our school uniform.

CESA

Don't forget CESA's Bingo night takes place on Friday 10 November, you can still book tickets [HERE](#). It'll be a great night full of entertainment and smiles and the more who come, the more we raise. I am really grateful for 15 or so parents who gave up their time over half-term to come in and give a further paint to our changing rooms. I am a lucky headteacher to have such supportive families, but I know they are always looking for more hands. Please check out the CESA Facebook page for further opportunities!

Have a great weekend and please don't hesitate to leave any feedback via the links below.

Best wishes



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

