



30 November 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

I started writing this thinking it would be a short note, but as ever there's always so much going on in the school the newsletter soon became much bigger!

Astronomy Evening

It was an absolute delight to welcome a large number of MECE students and families onto site on Wednesday evening for our annual Astronomy Evening. The evening saw students hear and deliver lectures in the hall and out on the field. In addition, and most importantly, they were all given plenty of opportunities to go on the telescopes and see the wonders of the universe! Personally, I had the chance to view Jupiter and four visible moons which was awe inspiring given that it is 444 million miles away! My thanks go to Mrs Sarpong, Ms Kirby, Mr McEvoy, Mrs Bosley and Mrs Fearnside for their attendance and input into this amazing MECE event.

Battle of the Bands

The final of this Year 9 event takes place on Thursday in Period 4 so I can't comment on the winners but just a huge thanks to Mrs Brown for coming in on her day off to run the finals. This is another great opportunity for our musicians and a great showcase of their talents. A fuller write up will appear next week.

Positive morals!

I also wanted to share a quick note from Ms Rees, our Medical and Welfare Officer, regarding mobile phones. We have been very fortunate at the very small number of thefts that have taken place at MECE over the last four years and the note below supports that. It is clear that between home and school the students are getting the right messages and I thank you for this.

Please can you add into your newsletter this week how proud I am of our MECE students and what an honest bunch they are. Over the last term and a half, I have been handed in quite a number of 'lost' mobile phones which have been reunited to other students in the school because of honest students finding them and handing them in.

I know we often see and read about the not so great things our students get up too but my experience of almost every MECE student is of honesty and integrity.

Christmas events letter

We have several upcoming events before our break for Christmas on Wednesday 20 December. Firstly, there is the Mary Poppins Jr show. Having seen one of the amazing songs from this production performed at last week's Presentation Evening I know this is going to be a brilliant evening! Please follow the link for more information - [Mary Poppins Jr - Tickets are now on sale](#) Secondly, we have Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 19 December which is always a special event. Please follow the link for more information - [Students' Christmas Lunch](#) On Tuesday 19 December we will also be holding a Christmas Jumper Day and a Santa Run. The proceeds of this will support schools causes such as the Year 11 Prom and House charities such as the British Heart Foundation. A letter will be sent home early next week with more details on this event.

Rowing

I was delighted by some of the results from our first ever rowing fixture. Joseph from Year 9 won his race and Lucas was from Year 10 was second. We have only just started using our recently acquired rowing machines at lunchtime but it is clear there is some real potential in the school. It will be good to see what Sam Townsend makes of this when he attends school next Wednesday for his rowing masterclass.



Attendance Officer

This week saw the departure of Ms Rixson, our Attendance Officer. I know many of the students and families will want to join me in saying "Farewell" and "Good Luck" in your adventures!

Foodbank

Don't forget to contribute to our House Charity competition by donating food for the Weller Centre foodbank. [Inter House Challenge - Weller Centre](#)

E-Scooters

I wanted to share with you this note from Thames Valley Police regarding e-scooters. I know they are popular with teenagers, but I am also aware there is a push from Thames Valley Police to prosecute parents of e-scooter owners given the high number of accidents and near misses that e-scooters are involved in.

E-Scooters Christmas Warning

E-scooters and powered transporters seem like a great Christmas present, but are you aware of the legislation?

There are NO circumstances in which personal e-scooters can be used on roads, pavements, cycle ways and any other public place.

At the moment e-scooters are covered by the same legislation as motor vehicles and are subject to all the same legal requirements – MOT, tax, licensing and specific construction regulations. A privately owned e-scooter can only be legally used on private land and with the permission of the land owner.

If you are asked by your child or family member to purchase an e-scooter, please consider that the person riding the scooter is liable for prosecution for offences such as driving without a valid licence and driving without insurance. The Police will be dealing with offences robustly, and the e-scooter could be seized and scrapped.

Please don't waste your money purchasing an e-scooter unless you have private land to use it.

Further information can be found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

Stars of the Week

My student star of the week is **Dylan** in Year 9 for an amazingly positive attitude to his work across the year which have seen him make incredible progress in the two and a half years he's been with us.

My staff star of the week is **Ms Rees**, our Medical and Welfare Officer, who really excelled last week in ensuring we supported our MECE family. Ms Rees is a fantastic team member who often starts work well before 7am, making sure all lessons are covered and we are ready to go each day. A true MECE star!

Take care and enjoy the winter sun.

Best wishes



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

