



08 December 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you've all had a good week despite the very damp weather over the last few days. As usual we have had plenty going on and it has been pleasing to see the high levels of engagement in our extra-curricular activities.

Year 11

On Thursday Miss Bliss held the annual PPE (mock exams) results afternoon. We aim to simulate some of the tension of the real thing next summer and the students are guided through the process and the emotions they are likely to feel. An extract of the film 'Any Given Sunday' is also played with the focus on marginal gains, moving things forward daily and doing a little and often. It is without a doubt that some of the students were disappointed with their results (as is the case every year) but I hope all those who know things could have gone better reflect on their approach to these exams and resolve to do things differently.

It was a very positive event, and it was good to see how seriously the students took the occasion.

My special congratulations go to all those students who were close to or above their targets. Given that most students will gain at least a grade or more between the mocks and the real examinations if they work hard this bodes very well indeed.

Rowing Masterclass

On Wednesday we welcomed ex Chiltern Edge pupil and double Olympian, Sam Townsend to conduct a rowing masterclass. Sam is now Director of Rowing at Radley College, and we were lucky to have such expertise in our midst. Sam certainly inspired our students and I hope many of them can look to a life on the water in the future. Around 40 students worked with Sam in their sessions and the feedback afterwards was unanimously positive.



Climate Conference

On Friday Mr Sheridan and eight Year 10s are out at a Climate Change conference in central Reading. Along with eight other local schools the students discussed the vitally important topic of climate change. It's great that we are making sure our students get these opportunities in terms of global citizenship awareness and public speaking skills and a huge thank you to Mr Sheridan for organising this!



Stars of the Week

My student star of the week is **Caitlin** in Year 11 for achieving a very prestigious scholarship and bursary to Queen Anne's School in Caversham for the Sixth Form. Caitlin is a wonderful young lady who gives of her best in all that she does and the recognition of this work ethic in this prestigious offer is well deserved.

My staff star of the week is **Ms Chopra** who has been in school this week despite some challenging personal circumstances and delivering great lessons to the students despite the difficulties she's facing. A true MECE hero!

Please leave any feedback you may have on the links below.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'A. Hartley'.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

