



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

This week I have been particularly enjoying teaching Macbeth to my year 11 class, we have reached the tense final scenes of the play and I have been impressed by how well they are remembering the key events of the play.

Options

At this point in the year our attention turns to the year 9 options process and I have been very delighted with the maturity and focus with which year 9 are approaching their choices. Earlier in the week Miss Biddiss led a vision and values session where students explored their ambitions for the future and possible pathways into further and higher education. Our students are really aiming high with ambitious plans such as astrophysicist, human rights lawyer, youth worker, electricians and more. Many were inspired by role models in their families, so do take the time to discuss your own careers with your children to help them to work out their future plans - thank you to those parents who came along to the information session run by Miss Biddiss. The process continues with the year 9 parents evening on Tuesday 6 February with a deadline for options forms before the half term break.

Attendance

You will have been reading about school attendance in the news this week and I can report that our attendance at MECE is also down on the same period from last year. Although it is the season of coughs and colds, it is still important to maintain a high level of attendance at school. Odd days here and there can interrupt the sequence of learning and mean that students returning to school will have gaps and struggle to maintain progress. There is a significant correlation between absence and exam results and students who miss school regularly also develop poor habits to take into the workplace where high levels of absence and poor punctuality can result in dismissal. If for any reason you are struggling to get your child to attend school please get in touch with their head of year so that we can organise appropriate support.

Your views

Many students this week wrote letters to me as part of their English lessons to let me know what they like about our school and what they would like to see improved - I am looking forward to reading about their ideas and I would also love to hear from parents and carers via our feedback form [here](#) or email meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org, it is particularly helpful for me as a new headteacher to hear your views as I begin to write the school improvement plan for the coming months.

Best wishes

Briony Bowers
Headteacher