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Dear Parent/Guardian

After driving through the pouring rain this morning, I am pleased that as I write this on Friday morning the sun is coming out in the quad just in time for the lunch break. It has been my aim this week to seek out the MECE joy and my goodness did I find it! From the brilliant Macbeth essays year 11 have written in their English PPE, to the informative and amusing video about the river Volga made by Matthew in year 7.

One of our supply teachers has also commented on how much she loves coming to MECE because of the warm welcome which she receives from everyone. I also had the pleasure of being photographed for the new prospectus with Eleanor L, Hanga G-S. Kwame P, Peter C and Shree V, look out for our pictures on the website soon.

Focus Fortnight

I am delighted with the students' response to the focus fortnight on uniform and mobile phones, the site is now almost completely hoodie free and staff report that any issues with phones are dealt with swiftly and without complaining. This shows us that our students really want to focus on the thing which is most important: their learning. We will continue with the same focus for **one more week** and then move on to the next focus area: **Tools for Learning**.

Students who are well organised with the right equipment are ready to learn and take full advantage of any lesson activity which the teacher has planned. A reading book and student planner are also vital. Students will have regular equipment checks from their tutor in the morning and from their teachers and will be awarded housepoints for having everything on the list. Note that a range of items can be purchased from student services. Those students who do not attend school properly equipped will receive a break time detention. If you have any difficulty supplying the right equipment do let us know - you can contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. The tools for learning list can be found here and in the student planner.

Staffing

Thank you for your ongoing patience with our staffing situation, we are still managing a number of staff absences and vacancies in Science, English and MFL in particular. I will provide a fuller update next week.

Bus consultation

Thank you very much to everyone who has already responded to the consultation about the school buses. I met with a representative from Brighter Futures today who told me that there has been an impressive response from MECE parents - thank you. The strength of this community is palpable. If you haven't yet completed the consultation please read Miss Bliss' email for more information, a list of frequently asked questions and details of the public meetings which have been scheduled for next week can be found <u>here</u>. I would strongly encourage you to contribute to the consultation - your voice really matters.

Best wishes

Bowers

Briony Bowers Headteacher

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