



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

This week our rising year 7 students received their offers for September and we are excited about starting the process for them to join the MECE family! I welcomed a visiting group of parents and year 6 students on Thursday morning and they were so impressed with what they saw: calm purposeful classrooms, warm friendly staff and students, the community at work. We were also able to drop in on the year 10 ASDAN Youth Award exhibition and I was very proud of what Reice B, Amelia E, Millie B, Mitch K-D, Byron R and Archie W produced and how confidently they spoke about their projects.



I know that many of you are concerned about the number of cover lessons at the moment. This is due to two ongoing vacancies which we have struggled to fill in French and Science and a higher than usual amount of staff absence with a couple of longer term absences. As you can imagine it is difficult to say how long this will continue, particularly with the current national teacher recruitment challenges - however we are doing a lot to minimise the disruption to learning:

- Firstly, we are using our internal cover supervisors in areas where they feel most confident, they know the students and school systems and can provide some continuity for what teachers expect, so for example Miss Bullivant works closely with Mrs Ashley to cover the same curriculum in food so that students can still access practical work
- We try to use supply staff who know the school and can manage classes well. Our MECE teachers have been generous with their time in setting cover work and also supporting the supply teachers. Many of our regular supply staff request us from their agency as they love the school and the fact that they can get to know the students.
- We regularly check in on cover lessons using our on-patrol system to monitor behaviour and I feedback to the agencies so that we rebook those who are more effective in the classroom and assign them to the same classes again if they return to us. On Wednesday



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together

and Thursday I made a point of visiting every classroom in the school on one period and saw calm purposeful classrooms in almost every department across the school, including cover lessons.

- Once year 11 start their exams, we will reschedule the time when they would have been taught.
- Alongside this, we are working hard to recruit to the vacant posts and we currently have adverts out for French and Science and we have a new English teacher joining us after Easter who has been working at MES.

This is clearly not an ideal situation, so do get in touch if you need to raise something specific to your child.

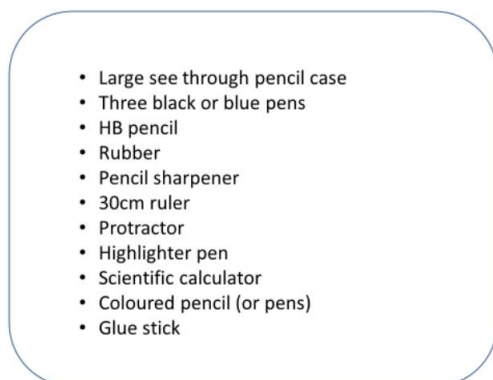
Buses - please respond to the consultation

There has been a good response so far to the consultation about the school buses - but we still need to do more! Next week Miss Bliss will be organising an opportunity for students to make their voices heard on the issue. If you haven't already responded, the survey has been made more accessible through a [survey monkey link](#) which can be accessed via mobile phone. Please share widely with your family and friends, please note that the survey can still be submitted by clicking next without completing all the questions.

Focus Fortnight - Tools for learning

After the brilliant start to this term with our focus on uniform and mobile phones, the next focus area will be Tools for Learning. Students will be rewarded with house points for being fully equipped and the consequence for not having everything required will be a break time detention. Do get in touch with your child's form tutor if you have any difficulty providing the correct equipment.

The MECE Tools for Learning



The MECE Tools for Learning



As always, let us know how we are doing by commenting through our [feedback form](#) or emailing to meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

Best wishes

Briony Bowers
Headteacher

