

Reades Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9LN

0118 972 1500

meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to the start of the new term - I hope that you had an enjoyable Easter break. I started the term with visits from our Chair of School Advisory Board Charlotte Cant and Director of Education for MET Andy Johnson. On both visits we toured every lesson and I was delighted to see calm purposeful classrooms across the school with students focused on their learning. They were impressed with what they saw and with the plans we have in place for further improvements.

Aim High

The theme of this week's assemblies was our school value - Aim High and there are so many examples of this in action at MECE.



In particular, we are very proud of the students who took part in the UKMT Maths challenge. Silver award winners were: Thomas D, Kieran H, Luke P, Adam P.

Bronze award winners were: Lola S, Charlie G, Sam S, Ella P, Alex M, Eleanor C, Emma T, Fred W. A special mention to **Zoe D** who was our School Topper and was just one mark off achieving the Gold Award. A big thank you to Mrs Gopal for organising this opportunity for our students!

Enrichment

Mr Caldwell continues on his mission to bring every sport to MECE students and has this week secured a grant to support a golf initiative called 'Unleash your drive' which is a golf-based life skills programme that develops golf skills and mental toughness. Participants will learn and practise mental toughness tools and build up a toolkit to help them during their golf lessons and in their wider lives. Additionally, this week a group of students have started a 12 week course









with Henley Rowing Club and are looking forward to getting out on the river. A big thank you to Mrs King for driving the minibus!



Staffing update

I am delighted to be sharing the news that in the last week of term I appointed a new Head of MFL, Aicha El kouchni, who will begin with us after the May half term. Ms El kouchni is an experienced teacher who impressed us with her lesson and was the resounding choice of the students and the interview panel.

Mr Groves returns to school on Monday after an extended leave of absence, he will pick up his tutor group and full timetable from Monday, though for continuity year 11 will remain with their current teachers for the last few weeks.

One the exam period starts in the week beginning 13 May we will be rewriting the timetable to make use of year 11 teaching time - Miss Bliss has done a brilliant job creating a plan which reduces all the current cover to only a handful of lessons.

All these factors combined mean that in three weeks time, students in years 7-10 will have subject specialist teachers across their timetable. Thank you for your patience whilst we have worked through this difficult period for staff absence. We are in the process of making some great appointments for September and I will update you on the outcome of those interviews next week.

If you wish to get in touch with us please use our <u>feedback form</u> or email <u>meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org</u>

Best wishes

Briony Bowers Headteacher

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