



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parents & Carers

Somehow, despite being a shortened week, it feels like we have packed more than ever into our 4 days here at MECE!

Tuesday kicked off 4 days of focus on Further and Higher Education and future careers beyond that for Year 10. Across the week students have had workshops on workplace etiquette, CV writing, time to research Post 16 provision through UniFrog as well as visits to providers including Leighton Park, Maiden Erlegh School, Reading University and Bracknell College. Students have also completed a day of Work Experience in settings as varied as a dog grooming parlour, Great Western Railways, Kingfisher Nursery, law firms, The Weller Centre and with a host of other local businesses and entrepreneurs. Feedback on how students engaged has been wonderful to read and we look forward to sharing photos and snippets of the feedback via our social media pages next week.

On Wednesday Year 9 took centre stage with the culmination of their Enterprise Project in the form of a fair at lunchtime. There were stalls including cake sales, "pound land," soak the student and games including nerf-gun target practice and bowling and even hand drawn temporary tattoos. It was lovely to see students from the other year groups flocking to support Year 9 across lunchtime. Overall, they have raised over £200 which I know will be gratefully received by the Weller Centre.



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Wednesday also saw interlopers on the far end of the school field, “Miss Bliss, we can’t play Rounders because there are sheep on the pitch” is not a radio call I thought I would ever receive. I can also tell you there is not a specific section in the Headteacher handbook that covers this particular situation! Safe to say, we relocated the rounders game and contacted local farmers and by Wednesday evening order was restored!

Thursday was a momentous day for around half of our Year 11s – the first written GCSEs. We had students taking BTEC Sport and Drama exams as well one student completing their Turkish papers. In many ways the start of exams creeps up on you whilst also feeling like it has been an exceedingly long time coming! Students left the exams with a mixed sense of relief that the first one was done and a renewed sense of focus for next subjects on their schedule – next week is a busy one with English Literature, Computing, Biology, History, Maths and Geography all taking place.

A heads up for students on Monday and Tuesday next week lunch will take place after period 3 at 12.30pm – students have been advised and will be reminded by Tutors on the mornings. This is to accommodate GSCE afternoon exams.

I was privileged to attend the Sonning Common Beacon lighting yesterday evening to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. It was lovely to talk with members of the Community including current and former pupils, parents and staff at the gathering as well as take a moment to reflect on the impact of war and the sacrifices made by so many. At school Year 7-9 had marked the day with tutor activities focusing on the event.



This morning, I enjoyed Hot Chocolate with a group of Year 7 students who have been working hard during small group intervention sessions on researching animals including red squirrels, turtles and leopards and using their ICT skills to develop information leaflets, along with Mrs Flett, who has led them through this project, they talked enthusiastically about their research, and we engaged in a very serious debate about where a giraffe would wear a tie, if he was getting dressed up for a wedding – the debate rumbles on as we were unable to come to an agreement!



This evening, we have two further events taking place – the annual CESA Quiz and our DofE cohort are undertaking a practice camp on the field. Fortunately for the campers the weather looks like it might be kind – here's hoping the busy school week has worn them out and everyone involved gets a few decent hours sleep!

As ever I must thank all the staff who have been involved in all aspects of organising the events mentioned above – trips, visits, workshops and special events are hugely rewarding for all involved but take a lot of time and energy behind the scenes to piece together on top of regular day jobs.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Miss E Bliss
Headteacher



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