



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parents & Carers

A shortened newsletter this week following a very busy week in school and in the Community.

Last Sunday it was a delight to join the Sonning Common Village Day at Memorial Park – a day of community and celebration. It was lovely to catch up with parents, staff and students be them current, former or prospective. I was also very grateful to the students who volunteered some of their afternoon to come and support our stall – in total over 30 gave their time which was a very much appreciated gesture! This weekend we will be at Sonning Common Primary School's fete on Saturday between 12-3pm – amongst other things going on will be a CESA pre-loved uniform sale and other fundraising activities.

This week Year 9 have had their taster sessions in their allocated GCSE Options subjects with activities including bread & mayonnaise making, exploration into early Elizabethan life, design of an invasion game and Case Study work into 2 contrasting earthquake events. As we hoped there has been a lovely buzz within Year 9 and lots of chatter about the sessions and excitement for what Year 10 might bring! A reminder that the final workshop in the Get Set for Year 10 programme takes place on Tuesday July 8 and during that session students will also receive their Core PPE results taken earlier this month.

Over 50 students from Year 8 enjoyed a trip to Hampton Court Palace yesterday to build on their Tudor life studies in History. The day included an exploration of the historic palace, including the royal kitchens, the banqueting hall and even the haunted gallery! We then took part in a Tudor Festival, meeting lots of people on the way, from barber surgeons, blacksmiths and even Henry VIII himself! The students were fantastic and got really involved in all the activities, showing off their knowledge from our recent Tudor topic. A great time had by all – staff included!



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Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together

Yesterday, 15 students from Years 7 and 8 took part in a Softball tournament against Langtree and Icknield. The students have been so keen to perform they have taken advantage of additional training opportunities at lunchtimes to hone their skills. Whilst they played some great games, they didn't manage to register a win on this occasion, but Mr Spicer says there is plenty of potential within the group to improve in future fixtures.

Our Year 10 Senior Student team took centre stage in supporting younger students with ambassador roles as we kicked off the first of four Open Morning events where we welcomed families with children currently in Years 4 and 5. The Open Morning events provide a first opportunity for families to come to site and get a feel of the school. Families go on a "spotlight" tour with opportunities to visit lessons and get a sense of the setting and school environment. Tours are delivered by our student ambassadors from across Year 7-10 – the students always do an excellent job, speaking openly and honestly and with a huge sense of pride for the school. Prospective families are always very quick to praise their guides in feedback. This week's 2 events have seen over 45 families visit which is fantastic.

Last night we celebrated the Year 11 Leaver's Prom. After a scare earlier in the day from some unwelcome rain, we were blessed with a beautiful summer evening. As ever students turned out in a wonderful range of ball gowns and suits as well as an eclectic mix of vehicles to arrive in – this year's most elaborate was the fairy-light adorned tractor. The next time we see Year 11 will be on results day in August – so until then, we wish them well for their long summer.



Hot off the press, we received news today that our application for some Sensory Circuit equipment was successful and Pangbourne College have agreed over £400. Thank you to Mrs Jenkins for pursuing this. This sits alongside grants and donations received recently from Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (£800+ to support disadvantaged students access the Award scheme), Beville's Estate Agents (£250 to launch Pickleball) Reading Rugby Club (£1500 for specialist equipment), Performance Sports (providing weekly cricket sessions for Year 7) and Henley Rowing Club (providing 15 fully funded places on their 6 week "learn to row" scheme). We are extremely grateful for the



support from the wider community and a big thank you to Mr Caldwell, amongst others, who have taken the time to foster these relationships.

And finally, a bittersweet day at MECE today as we bid Mrs Smith a very fond farewell as she leaves us to begin her maternity leave. Mrs Smith has been a very valued member of the MECE staff and Humanities team since July 2020 when she joined us following the completion of her PGCE. Mrs Smith has revamped the History and Religious Studies curriculum and was singled out for praise during our Ofsted in 2022 – so much so that a few months later we were (re)visited by Ofsted’s History Lead to have further discussions about her curriculum to underpin their best practice document. Mrs Smith has been steadfast in her belief that all students can succeed, and she has undoubtedly worked above and beyond to support her students to do so. She has inspired many Year 11 students to onward study within the discipline, a true testament of her passion and spirit. Leah, we wish you all the very best for this next exciting adventure!

Over the next two weeks I will be sharing news on some of our staff who are joining us in September – we have made some wonderful appointments to the MECE team for next academic year and find ourselves in a very positive position. I look forward to introducing them to you.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend.



Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

