



14 November 2025

Dear parents/guardians,

Last week I shared news on the first of our Community Projects that students from Y10 and Y11 have been invited to apply for. These provide opportunities for students to support in local Primary schools (Kidmore End and Sonning Common) and in KS3 lessons at MECE. This morning, I met with the students from Y10 over hot chocolate and brioche to hear about their experiences. It was lovely to hear about how they had been helping with Art, Forest School, PE, Computing and even Science lessons from Reception through to Y6 classes. We all had a little chuckle that it seems helping to explain the concept of friction to 7-year-olds has helped the Y10s themselves truly understand it too! For some of the students involved this experience is providing an opportunity to explore potential career paths in either working with children or within education, whilst for others it is an opportunity to build confidence and hone their planning and organisation. I am delighted to hear that we anticipate 2 further Primary schools wanting to get involved and Mr Caldwell is now busy liaising with them as to what this might look like and supporting students in making the logistical plans to get themselves there and back.



On Sunday, last week, MECE was represented by staff and students at both the Sonning Common and Kidmore End Services of remembrance. Mr Perry and Y10 Finn were guests of honour at Sonning Common where alongside the wreaths for the fallen from the Great War there was a special moment, and wreath laid for the 3 former Chiltern Edge students who lost their lives during Military service in later conflicts. This was particularly poignant as Mr Perry had taught them during his tenure at the school. At Kidmore End I laid a wreath and took time to reflect during the service on the historic losses of so many but also the current turmoil that is being faced around the world in the modern day. In school, Mr Mount led assemblies with Y7-10 of remembrance and on Tuesday 11 November the school fell silent for the national 2-minute silence.





We have had a number of workshops on site this week including from Innocent Otunnu from Trinity College, Oxford University who spoke with our top set Y9 and Y10 students about University, the application process and about the specifics of an Oxbridge application – ad hoc feedback from students was very positive and has planted a seed of what their further education path could look like. Thank you to Mrs Hills for organising this opportunity. For Year 10 this is the beginnings of a year-long programme of events to showcase the various routes into the workplace from Post 16 options like 6th Form or College or Apprenticeships to Post 18 pathways including University or Apprenticeships.

Year 11, having finished their PPEs had a day at Henley College on Thursday to experience what “going to College” might feel like. Students selected taster courses in advance and had 3 sessions in the day ranging from A Levels in PE, English Literature and Accounting, Level 3 Vocational Courses (e.g. BTECs) in Health & Social Care, Personal Training, to T-Level Qualifications in areas such as Leadership & Management or Digital Support & security. I had the pleasure of being at the College in the morning and was extremely proud of how our students engaged and conducted themselves. Feedback from the College staff was also fantastic. Speaking to a number of students this morning about the day they are full of enthusiasm and perhaps even a renewed outlook on the importance of the next 6 months to secure the grades they would need to access courses similar to those they tried out yesterday. A huge thank you to Henley College for continuing to coordinate this opportunity for our students and we look forward to taking up other opportunities over the upcoming months too.



Year 11 return now to the routine of school and are focused in on completing the curriculum in most subjects as well as NEAs (coursework) in the practical subjects. The students have been exemplary during the exam sessions and invigilators have been quick to comment on this, which is fantastic. They will get their PPE results in a “mock” results day in early December once staff have marked and moderated their exams. A special well done too the





Y10 students who are sitting a “home language” and also sat a PPE paper this time – hearing how you have performed in those papers is excellent and deserves special recognition. performed in those papers

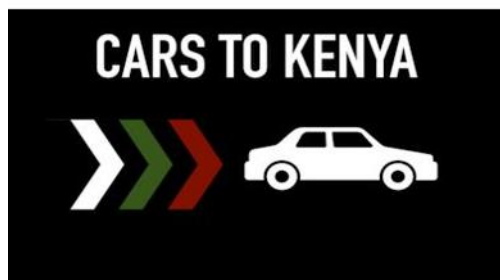
Year 7 yesterday were also involved in workshops – for them it was focused around online / digital safety. This is an area that is ever changing and the potential risks for young people (and in fact all of us) are growing – therefore it is really important that we ensure that it is not only delivered through the curriculum but when we have opportunities to spend additional time to focus on it, we grasp them! The sessions were delivered by.... and students..... Thank you to Ms Cheeseman for getting this set up.

A request from Mrs Skitt, our Food & DT Technician – if you have any plastic tubs (of the chocolate selection type) at home or if you should receive them over the holidays we are always on the lookout for them in Food Tech for students to take food home in – currently our stocks are running a little low! If you are happy to donate could your son/daughter bring them in and/or dropped at reception.

A small plea regarding hoodies. As the temperatures start to drop, we have started to see an increase of students wearing hoodies. Please can you remind your son/daughter, as we will do again from next week, that hoodies are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn around the site. Students can expect to be asked to hand them in if wearing them. If students are cold, they should wear a coat to school. The school building is perfectly warm and so they are not permitted during lessons. Blazers should continue to be worn underneath. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

And finally, please see below some upcoming local events that are taking place within the community.

The first is a fundraising car wash being run by 3 of our Year 11 students (Logan, Toby & Samuel) who are taking part in the Kenya trip. The car wash will take place on 22 November at the Rectory on Church Road in Caversham and you can sign up here: [Cars to Kenya Sign Up](#)





The second and third are events being coordinated by Kidmore End Primary School and Sonning Common Primary school where lots of our own students once attended. Please see details on the posters below.

Next week we will share details of our own Christmas raffle and how you can donate prizes and/or buy tickets.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and hopefully one that isn't too waterlogged as Storm Claudia makes its way across our region.

Yours sincerely

Miss Emma Bliss
Headteacher

PRESENTING THE KIDMORE END SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SANTA DASH

SUN 7TH DEC

£7 PER PERSON INCLUDES SANTA HAT & MEDAL

Festive outfits encouraged!

MEET 9.30am, FIRST RUN 10am

MEMORIAL PARK, SONNING COMMON

Hosted by John Johnny Entertainment!

FAMILY FUN RUN ROUND THE TRACK • MUSIC • FOOD FROM GRILL MASTERS
HOT CHOCOLATE STATION • TEA & COFFEE • SOFT DRINKS • FACEPAINTING

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book now via www.ptaevents.co.uk/kidmoreend or the QR code below

SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Christmas tree sale

- ★ 5ft-6ft @ £37
- ★ 6ft-7ft @ £47
- ★ Pot grown trees 2-3ft @ £20
- ★ Harvest your own 6ft tree on request @ £47

Collection on
Dec 5th 4pm till 5pm
Dec 6th 10am till 11am

Orders can be emailed to pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk
Pre order by Nov 24th

