



28 November 2025

Dear parents/guardians,

As we draw the month of November to a close, I am reminded that our friends across the Atlantic are marking Thanksgiving this week. While it is not a tradition we formally observe here, it does offer a timely moment for us to reflect on the many things we, too, can be thankful for within our school community. From the positive interactions I see daily between students and staff, to the strong engagement in lessons, activities, and wider school life, there is much that deserves recognition and appreciation as we head into the final weeks of term. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to you all, for your continued support, engagement, and willingness to work in partnership with us make such a meaningful difference to our students' success.

As we look ahead to December, it is always a month that brings a familiar rhythm to school life. It is important that we maintain the momentum of learning and continue to make strong progress through the curriculum, ensuring students remain focused and well-prepared for the term ahead. At the same time, December offers opportunities for moments of celebration and enjoyment, and we aim to strike a healthy balance between purposeful study and the festive activities that help create a warm and memorable end to the calendar year. Activities we have planned include:

- Battle of the Bands – The Final
- The Christmas Concert
- Christmas Lunch
- Reward Afternoon
- Santa Run

Full details of all the activities taking place will be sent to parents in the early part of next week.

We have also been invited to sing carols with residents from the local care home and support with the Weller Centre community lunch both of which are lovely examples of our wider community working in harmony for all who live within it.

Over the last 4 weeks or so there have been some significant documents and changes within the education world from the DfE and OfSTED. Earlier this month the long-awaited Curriculum and Assessment Review was published alongside the Government response paper.





You may well have seen headlines about Science and Reading in particular but overall, the implications for us at MECE appear to be relatively minor. And then just 2 weeks ago the first of the OfSTED inspections under the reformed framework took place. Great Hollands Primary School, one of our MET family, had their inspection last week and I know that their experience will help better our understanding of that new framework and make the necessary preparations. Over the next few weeks members of the Senior Leadership Team as well as our Middle Leadership Group will be digesting both these documents and discussing the implications for our curriculum in school and in due course, we will share this with you too.

On Monday, Mr Groves organised for a team of students from Years 9 and 10 to represent MECE in the ESU Mace Debate Competition at Bradfield College. Our team debated against Reading Blue Coat on the motion *“This House Would impose a tourism tax in major cities facing overtourism.”*

The students were an absolute credit to the school. They spoke with confidence, structure and maturity well beyond their years. Although neither team from our heat progressed to the next round, our students delivered an exceptionally strong performance and may well have won their debate on substance.

Olivia (First Opposition) received specific praise from the ESU judges for her excellent handling of a Point of Information. Elliot (Second Opposition) delivered clear rebuttal and responded confidently to multiple POIs. Lucy (Summary Speaker) gave an eloquent, assured closing speech that impressed both judges and the audience.

The students also took part in the floor debate with thoughtful questions, and Natasha (Y11) supported the event by timekeeping for another school’s debate. All involved said how much they enjoyed the experience and are keen to compete again.

A huge well done to all involved for their dedication in preparing for the event as well as how they performed on the day. We are now exploring friendly debates with other schools in the region, as well as opportunities to enter further competitions.



Next week marks Y11 PPE result day and Parents’ Evening and I look forward to reviewing the results with students over the last 2 weeks of term. Please do ensure you have made your appointments via the cloud system.

Year 7 parents, please keep an eye out on Monday for details of how to sign up for the End of Term 1 tutor catch up.





And finally, I wanted to shout out to our week's top House Point scorers each of whom have earned over 25 points this week.

Year 7: Jack L, Hazel, Austin, Athina, Georgie

Year 8: Isobel, Rosamund, Tyler, Hanna, Harry W, Mia, Jacob, Anuska, Vanessa, Lois, Olivia

Year 9: Megan

Year 10: Riley, Zac, Dex, Luka, Archie T, Poppy E, Hayley, Zaid, Paige, Jay, Konstantinos, Cerys, Eleanor, Elliot, Grace and Deanna

Congratulations to all and keep up the great work.

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend,

Yours sincerely

Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

