



Dear Parents and Carers,

And just like that – the Spring Term is complete! It's hard to believe that this was only a five-week stint; somehow it has managed to feel both wonderfully full and impressively fast. Despite its brevity, the familiar “end-of-term tiredness” has certainly crept in this week, which is always a sign of a community that has worked hard, embraced opportunities and given their all.

It may be our last week of term, but our Enrichment programme has been in full swing this week. Our boys football teams from Years 7 to 11 have been especially busy, taking part in tournaments with local schools including Gillotts, Wallingford, St Birinus and Wheatley Park. Results have varied, as they always do in competitive sport, but the real joy has been listening to the students return, buzzing with energy, replaying every goal, and celebrating one another's efforts. For our Year 11 players, these tournaments mark the end of their time representing the school in football, something many of them have proudly done since Year 7. It was particularly pleasing to see them finish on a high, securing runners-up place in yesterday's competition. A wonderful end to five years of commitment.

Today, our Year 8 students enjoyed a workshop delivered by National Rail where they were working in small teams to develop a new Rail Station. This is part of our “Year of Opportunity” initiative, giving students meaningful encounters with industry while helping them understand the breadth of possibilities that lie ahead. As an employee-engagement experience, it sits firmly within our wider Careers programme, and the feedback from both students and staff has been incredibly positive. Opportunities like these allow students to showcase a large range of skills including teamwork and creativity and it was lovely to see students presenting their ideas from across the day to the group at the end of the session.



A fortnight ago, we welcomed back Reice and this week it was Ollie - now in Year 13 - who returned to complete his compulsory Work Experience. Ollie took part in a rich programme, lending his help in Food Technology, The Hive, Core PE and BTEC Sport. It is a real pleasure to see former students return as confident young adults, ready to give back to the community that once supported them. Their presence is both a reassurance and a reminder of the long-term impact that positive school experiences can have. Y10 themselves will be heading out on Work Experience shortly after we return from Easter – thank you to all who have volunteered opportunities or worked hard behind the scenes to secure places for our students.

Yesterday and today our Year 11 Artists have completed their 10-hour exam – a daunting prospect that sees time both stall and fly by in equal measure. As with the Food Tech we can't share any of their work but having seen the final pieces I know they can be exceptionally proud of their efforts.

Year 10 BTEC students have been putting classroom learning into practice, delivering sessions to groups of students as part of their Coursework. The task has involved developing a 15-minute skill session, in a sport of their choice, and then evaluating it. Sessions have ranged from football, netball, basketball and dance being delivered to group of willing volunteers from mainly Years 7, 8 and 9. This morning Poppy H delivered her session developing Karate moves to a small group of other Y10 girls. I had the great pleasure of being chief film director and time-keeper – and it was truly lovely to see the respect the students gave to Poppy in her session and how much they improved across the 15 minutes. Well done to her and to all the BTEC students who have completed this task over the last 10 days.



This week we have wished Mrs McShee farewell and best of luck as she steps away from the classroom and into a role where she can combine her knowledge of education with the opportunity to work from home. Whilst only being at MECE for a short time, Mrs



McShee has worked within Trust schools for over 5 years as valued members of the Science team. Mr Bell, now with us for 3 days a week, will be picking up much of her timetable in the first instance.

Last week I shared the results of the 2026 MECE Photography competition and mentioned another local competition we have been invited to submit entries for. Details have now been fully shared with students via Class Charts, and they can submit entries in Google Classroom (code: **4wk6vufj**)

As we head into the break, I want to express my thanks to you all - parents, carers, and families. This term may have been short, but it has been packed with laughter, challenge and achievement. I hope the Easter holiday offers rest, reflection and perhaps a little sunshine. I am heading off to Italy with the Trust Ski Trip and 200 teenagers from the 4 MET Secondary schools, including 30 from MECE – I am pleased to share there has been a good dumping of snow, and the forecast is now for a run for clear and sunny days.... Perfect for a scenic hot chocolate or two!

We look forward to welcoming students back for the Summer Term on Monday 13 April, refreshed and ready for the next chapter. This will be a Week 1. Please ask students to check their Class Charts App carefully to ensure they have the correct books and equipment as a few timetable tweaks have been made.

Warmest wishes,



Miss Emma Bliss
Headteacher

