



17 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families enjoyed a restful Easter break and had the opportunity to spend some valuable time together. We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back as we begin what promises to be a busy and exciting summer term.

For our older students, this term is very much a *time to shine* and to think carefully about the next steps ahead. Year 11 are now in the final stages of examination preparation, with the focus firmly on readiness, confidence and wellbeing. Year 10 will complete their first set of PPEs, providing an important opportunity to reflect on progress so far and to begin thinking about post-16 pathways and future careers. Year 9 will start to prepare for the move into Key Stage 4, ensuring they are ready for the increased demands of GCSE study. Our Year 7 and 8 students will continue to build strong foundations, developing essential learning behaviours and skills. This term also provides a great opportunity for students to channel their energy into enrichment opportunities, including clubs and wider activities.

I must take a moment to thank colleagues Mrs King and Mr Mavromichalis who supported the MET Ski Trip over the Easter break, which involved over 200 students from across the Trust secondary schools, a 20h bus journey (including a tiny bit of vomit) and 6 fun filled days on the slopes of Northern Italy. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to build friendships, develop resilience, and learn a new skill. If your son or daughter in Years 7–9 are interested in future ski trips, further details can be found in the [letter](#) shared previously, and the accompanying video may well inspire them. [This year's video can be found by clicking here.](#)

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Edney, who joins the MECE team as our new Attendance Officer. Mrs Edney will work closely with Ms Cheeseman, Heads of Year, tutors, and families to support positive student attendance. Attendance this week has dipped slightly to 87.5%, and we are keen to see this rise back into the 90%+ region that we have consistently maintained over the last term. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in ensuring students attend school regularly and punctually.

It has also been a very busy week for Year 11, with final Art exams, musical performances, and drama performances taking place. It has been a pleasure to see students smiling,



feeling proud of their achievements, and showcasing their talents. I know they would echo my thanks to their teachers for the time, enthusiasm, reassurance, and commitment shown throughout these assessments. Next week students who are studying for their French GCSE will be completing their Oral examination worth a quarter of their final grade.

A few further staffing updates to share at the start of this term as Ms Dunn has now moved into a full-time role within our Behaviour Support Team. Mr Perry has made the decision to take his retirement. Many MECE families will know Mr Perry both as a current teacher of their children and, for many, as their own teacher too. Mr Perry has given an extraordinary 44 years of service to MECE. In due course, we will work with him to ensure this incredible commitment is properly recognised and celebrated.

As a school we get shared a large number of opportunities for parents and students and we do our best to ensure they are disseminated in a timely manner. For students this is primarily via ClassCharts announcements or through tutor/year group Google Classrooms. This week I have shared information for students about a poetry competition where winning entries will be displayed as part of the same exhibition in Henley as the recent photo competition. For parents we have been asked to share information from the Ben Kinsella Trust who work to raise awareness of the dangers around knife crime and provide support for families and young people who may be affected or concerned about this. They are holding a free online parent workshop on 23<sup>rd</sup> April (6-8pm) which you can sign up to attend via this link: [Ben Kinsella Trust](#).

The first week back is always a good time to celebrate those who have returned from the break with a positive mindset and the images below show students from across the year groups who have been the “top point scorers” on each day this week (Mon-Thursday). Congratulations to them for their efforts. At the time of writing on Friday afternoon 78% of students have a positive to negative behaviour point ration of over 92% for this week and over 110 students have earned more than 25 house points (equivalent to 1 a lesson) which is a fantastic achievement. A special shout out to Charlotte, Percy, Sophia, Mia, Hollie, Isobelle, Olivia, Arveen, Anushaka, Molly, Hanna (all Year 8) and Finn, Libby & Noor (Year 10) who have earned over 40 in this week. A huge well done to all our high scorers this week.





Finally, a reminder regarding uniform standards. This week, unfortunately, uniform has not been worn to the high standards we expect. **Students are required to wear a blazer, tie, and grey trousers or skirt.** Shirts should be tucked in, ties worn correctly, and blazers worn at all times. We really appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. We do have spares to lend to students who forget items and we also, in conjunction with CESA have a fairly large stock of pre-loved items for sale.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to a successful and positive summer term ahead.

Kind regards,

E Bliss  
Headteacher

