



8 May 2026

Dear Parent and Carers

Today marks the 100th birthday of the great Sir David Attenborough. Over a lifetime of extraordinary achievement, he has inspired generations to better understand and care for the natural world. He once reminded us that *"no one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced."* This message resonates strongly with our work in school around eco-education, sustainability and the importance of local community action, where small, everyday choices can collectively make a meaningful difference. Next week our eco-club will be joining volunteers in the village who are working on Widmore Pond to learn about their work and share some of their ideas for projects up at MECE. In next week's newsletter, to continue the Community theme, I will share examples of how our DofE Bronze and Silver students have been working within the Community as part of their award too.

This week has marked a significant milestone for Year 11 too, as the first written GCSE examinations have now been successfully completed. Students have sat exams in Number & Measure, BTEC Sport and Drama, approaching them with maturity and focus. Our congratulations go to all students involved, alongside sincere thanks to staff who have provided additional revision and support sessions to help with last-minute exam preparation. Next week sees the first of the whole-cohort GCSE examinations in English Literature, Biology and Maths, before we formally say goodbye to Year 11 on Thursday as they commence Study Leave. We will come together for the traditional Leavers' Celebration Assembly, a moment to reflect on five years of growth and shared memories and always struck with a careful balance of laughter, pride and the occasional tear. Tuesday's Biology exam is scheduled for the afternoon so once again lunch will be moved forward to 12.35pm (after period 3) to accommodate.

Meanwhile, Year 10 have had a hugely successful World of Work Week, taking part in workshops and activities exploring a wide range of career pathways and Post-16 options. We were delighted to welcome visitors from Reading University, Activate Learning, Lenovo, The Forensic Service and Shinfield Studios, alongside sessions delivered by MECE and Trust staff focused on future goal-setting.

Students have also been out on two days of work experience, with placements ranging from primary schools and the Fire Service to farms, businesses, accounting firms and science labs. Feedback from visiting speakers and work experience hosts has been overwhelmingly positive, recognising students' excellent engagement, friendliness and



manners - wonderful qualities to see when they are representing our school within the community. Students can continue to explore careers, record their experiences and build a CV using the UniFrog online platform. Staff have been working on this programme and logistics of Work Experience for many months and I must formally thank Mr Clark, Miss Jackson and Ms Dunn for everything they have done in creating such a meaningful week.



Year 10 return to regular timetabled lessons from Monday following the hiatus from exams and Work Experience. We look forward to sharing their PPE results on Thursday 21 May at Parents' Evening.

This weekend our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze students will be completing their practice camp and expedition. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the rain holds off, and dare we say, that it warms up just a notch for them. Our thanks go to the staff who are giving up part of their weekend to provide this valuable opportunity.



And finally, many of our families will be fully invested in SATs next week for Year 6 – from our staff and students to all our Y6s in the Community – we wish you the best of luck!



On behalf of the students and staff at MECE we wish your Year 6 students the very best of luck for SATs next week.

We know they will try their very best and hopefully do you proud!

BEST WISHES



MISS EMMA BLISS



MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE



Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

