



02 October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As we move into October, it has been wonderful to enjoy another week of warm weather and see our school full of happy, enthusiastic students. There is a real sense of positivity around the site, with students embracing opportunities both inside and outside the classroom and continuing to demonstrate our values of Aim High, Work Together and Be Inclusive every day.

One of the most significant changes this term has been the introduction of our phone pouches. I am delighted to report that the launch has gone exceptionally smoothly, and a huge amount of credit must go to our students. Their positive attitude, maturity and compliance have been excellent throughout. Thank you also to families for your support. A gentle reminder that all students are expected to bring their named blue pouch to school every day, whether they bring a phone with them or not. The pouch is now part of our expected daily uniform and equipment.

On Tuesday, our entire Year 8 cohort took part in an exciting STEM Challenge Day in partnership with Thames Water. Students worked in teams to design and build a model aircraft while also developing the branding and marketing strategy for their company. The day required teamwork, creativity, resilience and problem-solving, and it was fantastic to see students rise to the challenge. The quality of the finished products was incredibly impressive and there was a real buzz of engagement throughout the day. We are extremely grateful to the team from Thames Water for giving their time, expertise and enthusiasm to provide such a memorable learning experience for our students.



Last night we welcomed Year 7 students and their families to our Year 7 Parent and Student Information Evening and Celebration Showcase. It was lovely to see so many families in school and to have the opportunity to celebrate what has been a highly successful first month of secondary school. Students proudly shared examples of their work with parents and carers, talking confidently about what they have learned and



achieved so far. It was a wonderful reminder of how much progress they have already made since joining us in September.

Today, Year 7 students were fortunate to meet Jess Butterworth, the acclaimed children's and young adult author whose novel *Running on the Roof of the World* was included in every student's transition reading pack over the summer. Jess shared her own journey to becoming an author, spoke about the inspiration behind her writing and explored some of the key themes from the novel. Students engaged brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions and demonstrating a genuine enthusiasm for reading and storytelling.

Y7 were buzzing when they came out of the author talk. Emily, a budding author herself, was delighted to have received some tips for her own writing "Jess told me that I should always do a draft and it will never be the final version" Esme talked about the advice being to "read as widely as possible" a sentiment we certainly endorse here at MECE



Today, our Year 11 geographers have been enjoying a very different learning experience as they headed to the coast to complete their GCSE Geography fieldwork. Students have been collecting data on beach profiles and longshore drift, applying the knowledge they have developed in the classroom to a real-world environment. The glorious weather was certainly an added bonus, and students were in exceptionally high spirits as they loaded onto the coach this morning. It was also a pleasure to welcome back Mr Perry, who joined the trip to share his expertise, experience and enthusiasm once again. I know the students were just as pleased to see him as staff were, and we are grateful for his continued support of our Geography department and students.





As ever, I would like to take a moment to update you on attendance. I am delighted to share that our attendance for September stood at 93.8%, which is above the Local Authority average and more than 2 percentage points higher than at the same stage last year. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that attendance remains a priority. We know that strong attendance has a significant impact on achievement, and we remain committed to ensuring every student feels welcome, supported and valued within our community. By fostering a culture of belonging, positive relationships and high expectations, we can help every child achieve their full potential.

Looking specifically at this week, 8B were our attendance champions with an outstanding 99.3% attendance. Very honourable mentions also go to 11C, 11D, 10B, 8C and 7B, all of whom achieved attendance above 94% across the week. Well done to all of those tutor groups for setting such a positive example.

The end of September also provides an opportunity to celebrate students who have made an exceptional start to the academic year through their consistent effort, attitude and commitment to our values.

Congratulations to:

- **Poppy E**
- **Achinthy**
- **Vanessa**
- **Athina**
- **Imogen J**



who are currently the top house point earners in their respective year groups.

House points are awarded for excellent classwork, positive engagement with learning and homework, and for demonstrating our school values through acts of kindness, leadership,



perseverance and community spirit. These students should be extremely proud of their achievements.

This week, Year 8 have been particularly impressive, with students earning an average of 30 house points each, compared with a whole-school average of 21 points.

In addition, special recognition goes to:

Year 8 – Jack L, Peter, Athina, Molly-Rose and Isla

Year 7 – Francesca and Rachel

All of whom earned more than 40 house points this week.

Congratulations also to the top-performing students in the other year groups:

Year 11 - Oscar H. Poppy E, Lily-Ann

Year 10 – Tommy, Riley, Zakary

Year 9 – Hollie, Leo, Leathan

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Wishing you and your family a restful weekend.



Miss E Bliss
Headteacher

