MAIDEN ERLEGH
CHILTERN EDGE
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Friday! We made it through Friday the 13th, although not without a few extra grey hairs I fear. Today threw us a real curveball with the major Microsoft outage, leaving us without emails or Teams and only intermittent access to some of our school resources. There is nothing quite like an unexpected tech challenge to test our resilience on a Friday and I am hugely grateful to our staff and students for taking it all in their stride with good humour.

The weather has certainly turned this week too, and the winter coats, gloves, and scarves are officially out in force. As the temperature drops, please can I ask for your support in reminding students that hoodies are not part of our school uniform and should be left at home – a proper winter coat over blazers are the way to go.

It has been a busy and rewarding few days across the school, starting on Tuesday afternoon when Year 7 enjoyed a visit from a local poetry workshop. It was fantastic to see them getting stuck in, exploring the power of the spoken and written word, and building inspiration to write some of their own pieces in the weeks ahead.




On Wednesday, the tone shifted as the whole school fell silent for our Remembrance service. Students listened to Binyon's enduring words, *"They shall not grow old,"* heard the poignant notes of the Last Post, and observed a deeply respectful two-minute silence. It was an important moment for us all to pause and reflect on those lost in conflict, the families left behind, and the freedoms their sacrifices have afforded us. On Sunday, Mr Clark and Miss Bliss also represented our school community at the Sunday services in Sonning Common and Kidmore End joining local residents to lay wreaths and pay our respects.

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For our oldest students, this week saw the Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) draw to a close and it has been great to welcome the year group back into their normal lesson routines. We now have a focused few weeks of ploughing through the curriculum before results are shared in early December. Regardless of what those individual grades show, I want to reiterate how impressed we are with the maturity, engagement and attitude Year 11 have demonstrated across the ten days - we are incredibly proud of how they approached the whole process.




They also had a brilliant change of pace on Thursday with a visit to Henley College, where they experienced taster lectures in their chosen subjects, explored the campus, and got a real feel for college life. Alongside students from Langtree, Gillots, and Icknield, our cohort represented MECE wonderfully. The feedback from the College staff was simply too good not to share: *"Your students were the most polite and actively engaged in their learning"* Further commenting that "*they made eye contact, greeted staff and asked how they were doing and were really positive and warm in interactions"* Moments like that make us all very proud and re-enforce our "Warm Welcomes and Positive Partings" culture that we have embedded throughout the school.

To top off a great week for Year 11, our Basketball team played a fixture against Gillots last night and came away as convincing winners. With our enduring local rivalry always fiercely contested, this was a very welcome result to share and a fantastic note to end the week on!

Wishing you all a warm, restful and tech-glitch-free weekend.

Best wishes,



Miss E Bliss
Headteacher