



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been another great week at MECE and I have felt a genuine sense of traction and progress with what we are trying to achieve.

We have received some very positive feedback which I have passed on to the staff. Firstly, from the Oxfordshire Schools immunisation team who remarked on how “friendly, polite and orderly our students were this year”. Secondly, we have had some great feedback from the Parents’ Forum we held on Wednesday evening both on the evening and via social media and we are really grateful for this.

It was clear from the Parents’ Forum that there is a shared priority of ensuring the school is a calm, orderly environment which can allow students to learn and progress and I am excited about the next few weeks and how we can move forward even further. This week saw our daily lunchtime detention for late to lesson, phones and uniform infringements begin and I have been delighted at the way the students have responded to this initiative. The uniform has looked so much crisper, the students smarter and more business-like and it has been a pleasure to see things look better. Please can I remind you that students will be required to wear our shoes for the day if they come without the required footwear and there isn’t a medical reason. These shoes are given a disinfectant wipe after each use to ensure they are hygienic for the next user. Along with this we have our daily litter patrols with one tutor group a day spending their lunch detention picking litter. This daily event has seen the site tidy up nicely and along with the finding of a large plastic hammerhead shark one student also found a lost pound coin which made him very happy!

It is clear to me having now completed three weeks, how many great students we have at MECE. From county rugby stars, great footballers, actors and academics to just all round nice people. This was also borne out when Miss Fay organised a wonderful busking session for lunchtime on Wednesday. So many great singers and musicians and lovely to see so many students stopping to listen. This will now be a fortnightly ‘gig’.

Mr Yarwood delivered assemblies this week on the Holocaust in anticipation of Monday’s commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The students presented this assembly beautifully and they listened so respectfully which was wonderful to witness. I hope they are able to comprehend why it is some wonderful to live in such a tolerant country that upholds such democratic values and ideals and to ensure that the mistakes of history are never repeated.

On February 4th the Trust holds its annual Careers Fair at Maiden Erlegh School. This event has over 80 exhibitors and will be a wonderful opportunity for the students to meet potential employers, discover more information regarding careers and hopefully feel inspired about working towards their ambitions. Whilst I know there is a distance to travel this is a real advantage of being a member of the Trust that we have access to excellent opportunities such as this. Linked to this, it is our Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 26th February. Formal invitations will be sent in a week or two but please ensure the date is in your diary.

And lastly, please be reminded that Wednesday 29th January is an INSET day. Each INSET day, in every school around the country, there is always one student (usually a forlorn little boy), who arrives in school and looks around the playground for a few moments before realising there is something wrong but not being able to quite work what that is, before realisation finally dawns! Don't let that student be your son or daughter!

Have a great weekend.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher