



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

We have seen another good week this week with plenty of opportunities and further settling of the students.

On Tuesday it was great to be a part of the Trust careers evening and also meet a good number of parents from MECE. The range of exhibitors from universities, apprenticeship agencies and very professional career providers gave a great variety for our students to engage with. I was really pleased to see our students asking so many questions regarding their futures and the grade requirements needed to get there and achieve their career ambitions. Linked to this please be reminded that our Year 9 options evening takes place on Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup>, further details will be sent out regarding this over the next few weeks.

We also held our Year 11 parent evening regarding the 'last push' to the exams this week. It was great to see just over 60% of our parents there and we all really appreciated the positive and supportive feedback afterwards. It will definitely be a team effort to ensure that the results are as good as they can be next summer but it will require dedication, stamina and resilience from parents, students and the school. I know the staff here are as 'keen as mustard' to make this happen and I hope we can really push the students on together to make them see the value in going the extra mile.

At our Senior Leadership Team meeting this week Mr Hunter joined us to discuss the renewal of the House system at MECE. I am really excited by this, as to me, this allows the school to implement a system of extra-curricular opportunities in areas such as sport, public speaking, music, drama and charitable work but all tied into the affiliation and community of the House identity. We will be looking for a summer term launch of this probably focused around Sports Day initially.

As you will know, I sent home a letter regarding 'Tools for Learning' earlier this week. The issue of being ready to learn is so incredibly important and the lost learning time of each lesson whilst teachers source pens for writing or rulers for graphs or colours for maps can be incredibly frustrating. If one adds it up as three minutes per lesson and 15 minutes per day and 75 minutes per week you can see that the cumulative effect is high and needs addressing. However, I am aware that for some parents the specific calculator brand could be an issue as they have already purchased a different model. ***With this in mind, given the cost of a new calculator, I am happy that as long as the students have a scientific calculator of any brand or model that is fine but could I ask that when a replacement is bought it is the model we are specifying (Casio FX-83GTX).*** This allows the Maths teachers to teach the students how to use the calculator more easily. Thank you for your support with this initiative.

As we move to the end of the first half term I am pleased with the progress we have made but know that we must not be complacent. Behaviour has improved but I want to improve still further so that no lessons are disturbed by other students rather than just a few. However, over half -term I will be turning my planning towards a real focus on the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom and the quality of the curriculum that the students are studying. Where behaviour is best is usually where all students feel confident that they can tackle the work but also that they are being challenged and pushed to do better. I intend to develop my staff as a learning community, who support and observe each other to develop and hone their craft in the classroom. This will ensure a consistently high quality of lesson in every department across the school.

Lastly, the Performing Arts department have had another great week with their lunchtime busking club on Thursday with some great solo performances. This followed on from the brilliant Blue Boy Dance Co. workshop on Tuesday with over 20 students dedicating themselves to a day of hip hop from a top level instructor. The company themselves are performing on the Greatest Dancer in BBC1 this Saturday and judging by the quality of input and the sweat and enjoyment from the students this was indeed a high quality day.

Have a great weekend



Andy Hartley  
Headteacher