



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

From a personal perspective I am both excited and relieved it is half term but also really looking forward to the next half-term and what we can do to further the progress of the school even more.

This has been another busy week in the school and it was great to see two trips go out on Wednesday evening with the History students off to see a production of Six about Henry VIII's wives and the PE reward trip to the Reading v West Brom match at the Madejski Stadium.

I've also made some good connections for the future with a meeting with the Brilliant Club about our participation in this excellent initiative which has students working with a PhD student from a top university on graduate level work and producing a dissertation style project. Alongside this I've had a great phone call with Sam Townsend, a former Chiltern Edge student, who is now Head of Rowing at Radley College. Sam is also a former Olympian who represented Team GB at the London and Rio Olympics in 2012 and 2016. In June we hope to take some students up to Radley for some 'introduction to rowing' sessions in their gym, in their indoor tanks and finally on the river! I've also booked in a slot for our Year 9 and 10 students to receive a talk on 'Getting into the Top Universities' delivered by a wonderful speaker called Peter Rawling who really knows his stuff and speaks across the country on this topic. I hope this presentation will fire up the students and make them realise just how hard they'll need to work over the next few years but also what extra things they should have on their CVs in the way of skills and experiences. Lastly, I've been working with the Inclusion team on how we can try and improve our provision for students who are feeling anxious or vulnerable. I hope to have some exciting plans to reveal on this later in the term.

Ms Chopra our new Head of Maths is doing some excellent work and has revamped the curriculum to really push the top end of the ability range and she will be launching this after half-term. She has also signed the school up to the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge in April for Year 7 and 8 outstanding mathematicians and the Ewelme Maths Challenge which is a South Oxfordshire inter schools Maths competition.

I also wanted to update you on a staffing and curriculum matter. Just after half-term I will be interviewing for a Head of Computing teacher. This is a split role and the job will be divided between Maiden Erlegh Reading and ourselves but it is really exciting and will allow us to re-introduce Computing and IT back on to the MECE curriculum. We will discuss the implications for this for next year's Year 10 curriculum at our Year 9 Options Evening on February 26th.

Today saw my first Hot Chocolate Friday event where I have a reward meeting with six students who have excelled recently. The little gathering is a way of saying thank you to their contribution to the life of the school and their own personal success. It was lovely to spend some time with these brilliant young people who seemed wise beyond their years, which is probably why they're doing so well at school!

I hope all the young people and families of the MECE community have a great half-term, get some rest, buy their Tools for Learning and come back ready to smash the next half-term. Many thanks for your support and strength this half-term, bring on the next one!

Yours

Andy Hartley
Headteacher