



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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02 October 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you have all had a good week and everyone is staying safe and Covid free. The news that the government has changed its guidance on face coverings from recommended to mandatory on school transport came through on Thursday afternoon. As you will know from reading my previous newsletters I have been somewhat concerned about the buses therefore I welcome this news as anything we can do to dampen the rising infection rates is welcomed. At the end of the day we will be asking all the students to put their face covering on before entering the bus so please can you ensure that the students all have a suitable covering before leaving the house in the morning.

During this week the Senior Team have been busy observing the teachers in the classroom in a formal sense. This will be used to guide our whole school teacher training, to evaluate the progress of our School Improvement Plan and to inform bespoke support for some staff. We have been really pleased by what we have seen but it has also given us some good points to develop and move forward. We will follow this up in the week beginning October 12th with work sampling and book scrutinies.

One of my pleasures of this week has been to witness Mr Hunter's excellent assembly as he relaunched the House system. The students listened completely rapt as Mr Hunter delivered his words with gusto and passion. The students discovered their allotted houses on Thursday and their first competition began with the designing of a house crest. There are many more competitions to follow- I can't wait for the games to begin!

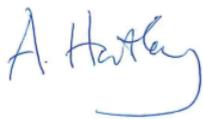
The Year 7 and 8 Science Fair took place at break on Wednesday with students from both year groups presenting their projects, answering questions and beaming with pride at their magnificent efforts. I was chatting with various students about bionic eyes, radiation, Fitbits and light bulbs. A huge thanks goes to Ms Hardman and her team and to the students (and parents!!) for their hard work, great use of resources and determination. The use of academic and technical vocabulary was also first rate and I am pleased with this further example of our reading strategy embedding. I am delighted to announce that in Year 7 the winner was Kieran H with runner up Eleanor C and in Year 8 the winner was Theo R with runner up Isaac W. Ms Hardman was also out at Sonning Common Primary School on Friday morning demonstrating the wonders of secondary science to the younger students and I am delighted we are able to get this partnership work up and running again.

We've had a few examples of students submitting homework that is way below the standards expected this week. Homework is really important for consolidating learning, for completing work that supports class-based learning and for improving knowledge. We expect students to complete work that matches the exemplars and guidance that they have been given in class for this work. Unfortunately, work that isn't completed to the required standards will need to be re-done and this may be after school. Success in academic work like in any discipline requires effort, perseverance and determination and we are determined that all our students get the best chance of success in their future examinations and academic careers. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Our Open Evening and Year 6 recruitment continued this week as I visited Caversham Park Primary School as well as hosting two Zoom Open Events with prospective parents. Our 'big' event is on Tuesday and we have had to put on a third presentation due to strong demand which is really pleasing. Please do pass on the link to our [website](#) to any families that are considering secondary schools for next year. We will have our departmental resources, presentations, promotional films including our drone tour all loaded [here](#) from Tuesday. I will also be popping into Micklands and The Heights next week at the request of parents there. It is pleasing to know that our resolve to make the school an outstanding institution is being recognised by local parents.

I hope everyone has a great weekend and manages to have fun in the autumnal wind and rain.

Take care



Andy Hartley

Headteacher