



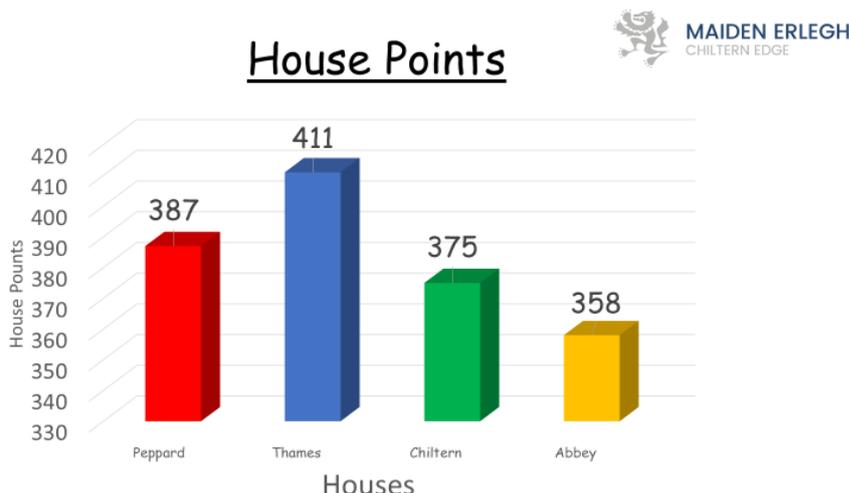
09 October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been another busy week but another very productive one. Our attendance has been between 93% and 96% on each day this week which is incredible given the wider context of self-isolation and the autumn sniffles. Our students have also risen to the request of face coverings on the bus for which we are incredibly grateful. I try to go on each bus each evening and I have been delighted by the students all or nearly all having their coverings on before they have been asked. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Our Year 11 preparation for their mocks began in earnest this week with three mornings of tutor time work from English, Maths and Science followed by an after-school revision session. Attendance at these events is significantly up on last year's post-Christmas intervention with between 75 and 80% of students attending each day. These sessions are all the more important this year given that next year's examinations are in the balance and a teacher assessed grade is likely to be needed. The mock examinations contribute to these internally assessed grades and so being well prepared to maximise performance next month is all important. Certainly, last year we had a few students who chose not to revise for their mocks which undoubtedly affected the final grade that we could submit for the students. At least this year we can see it coming and so hopefully the students can ensure they are thoroughly prepared.

Our House system has now been re-launched through Mr Hunter's assemblies. With this in mind we are looking to launch a refreshed house points system with a weekly league table.



This is also a good opportunity for all parents who currently don't have the *SIMS Parent App* on their phones to download it. This app allows you to receive notification of any awards and housepoints your children earn as well as notification of any behaviour events. It is a great way of keeping in touch in real time and a link to the app can be found going to www.sims-parent.co.uk.



Along with this our Show My Homework app can also be [downloaded](#). Whilst most of our students have bought into the high expectations of the school there are a few who still think homework is an optional accessory and by parents also having this app it allows everyone to work together to ensure the work gets completed and completed to a high standard.



We have also been very pleased by our Virtual Open Evening events this week. We had over 250 families registered for this event and we've been delighted by the positive feedback that we have received as a result of the presentations. A link to our webpage of the event can be found [here](#) and I would particularly recommend a click on Mr Watterson's video for the Art and Technology faculty. I have also been to The Heights and Micklands Primary School this week as well and am booked to visit Peppard Primary next Tuesday.

I began my day this morning meeting some lovely students from Year 9 for a 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' appointment. It is lovely to have the opportunity to spend some time with these students who were nominated by their Head of Year because of their positive attitudes to school. It was a great opportunity to gain some feedback on what we're doing and our progress and also to gather some feedback on who their favourite teachers are and why. Also today we had a demonstration of a software package that we hope to use for virtual parents' evenings. This will allow parents to both book parents evenings online but also to get invites to a 'facetime meeting' appointments rather than attend the event face to face. Watch this space but it looks likely we will be using this for our first parents' evening next month.

Lastly, a big shout out to Mrs Hills, our new Assistant Headteacher, who has recently had an article published in Teaching Geography. It's a great article regarding school curriculum planning but it is also another indicator of the high quality of staff that the school is now employing.

Take care and stay safe.

Andy Hartley

Headteacher