



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move to the end of the seventh week of term I can see some of the staff and students definitely showing signs of tiredness. This is even less surprising, given the lengthy lay off from late March. However, our attendance of staff and students has been remarkable with attendance this week well over 95% and there have been (I'm writing this on Thursday evening) no teaching staff absences all week. Thank you so much for your parental support for school, as attendance is so important to academic success and progress. I also want to publicly acknowledge the dedication of my staff, who have shown real professionalism and commitment throughout the term and despite the challenging circumstances this has allowed us to operate a 'normal' school day and routine throughout the last seven weeks.

Ms Hardman, our Head of Science, has been involved in working with some students in preparing for a Model United Nations Conference in November. This will be a virtual event in which our students work with other students from across Oxfordshire, representing different nations in different committees covering topics such as climate change, a refugee committee and so forth. This event is a wonderful way of developing a broader global consciousness, an empathy for other nations, their beliefs and needs, and in listening to and respecting others views. I am very proud we have got involved in this and very grateful to Ms Hardman for her energy and dynamism in leading our team of young diplomats. Our next project, in a similar vein, is the Mock Trial competition and we look forward to working with Year 8 and 9 budding lawyers on this project in January. Regarding future MECE lawyers, one of our Year 11s has been successful in securing a placement and bursary to take part in the Young Lawyer Internship programme next summer and we are delighted that we were able to help him in guiding his application for this fabulous opportunity.

I had the pleasure of attending a meeting this week regarding the replacement of any facilities we may lose as a result of the proposed land sale of the small pocket of land on the south east of our site. Under the conditions of the sale, any facilities lost must be replaced and I am pleased with what has been proposed; high quality multi use games surfaces replacing our old courts. These new courts can be used for football, hockey and netball and will be a great addition to our facilities. There are other possibilities from this development but I will leave it for now until more is certain, but it all sounds very exciting!

Miss Bliss and I were grilled by a consultant from an organisation called PIXL this week. PIXL work with hundreds of schools and have supported them over the last 10 years in improving results and life chances of thousands of young people. The consultant quizzed us on our approach and strategies for success with Year 11 across the next 9 months. I am pleased to say that he was delighted with what we're doing (and plan to do) and our ideas such as the tutor time revision blasts and the 3 weeks of after-school sessions in the run up to the mocks, are just what's needed. Our challenge will be to sustain it across the year, to ensure we focus on the key students and make sure we engage parents as much as possible. Given the brilliant and positive engagement of so many of our Year 11s I can't wait for next year's results day (August 27th!).

We will be sending out invitations for our next Parent Forum being held on November 11th. This will be virtual, but please do respond to the invitation when it is sent out formally next week. The topics of conversation will be looking at our provision for learning in the event of partial or full lockdowns, how we know what's going on in school (our quality assurance work) and ideas for community engagement.

I'd also like to remind you that we break up for half-term next Friday at 3.10pm. We return to school on Monday 2nd November. It is important that the students get some downtime but as parents do please check Show My Homework over the break so that the students can come back after half-term all prepared and ready to go for another successful half-term.

Stay safe and take care.



Andy Hartley

Headteacher