



20 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope this week has been kind to you and your family. Fingers crossed we are now over halfway through this current lockdown and a greater degree of normality can resume. In the meantime, I hope everyone is using this time to be kind to each other and spend some family time together (and support their children getting their homework done!!).

Once again can I commend the students on their wearing of face covering around school which has been done very well by all concerned. The students also seem very compliant on the bus which is pleasing and shows they understand the importance of their communal behaviour.

This week saw our first virtual Parents' Evening using a platform known as *schoolcloud*. This piece of software acts as both a booking system and also sets up a video meeting for each teacher and parent. Despite many recommendations from my headteacher colleagues and a raft of positive feedback on Twitter I was still nervous. However, I should not have worried as both the staff and parents seemed to have a great time. No more dodgy acoustics in a draughty hall with people getting cross at overrunning appointments. Parents could discuss their child from the comfort of their sofa whilst drinking tea in their slippers and staff could speak from their offices and teaching rooms – maybe also with their slippers on! This system also has a time limit on each appointment and so requires a little more discipline in terms of what is said and not said but all the feedback from parents and staff lead me to think that certainly in the short to medium term this is a good system to use.

Miss Bliss and I were given quite the grilling on Tuesday morning. Ms Davies, our CEO, paid a visit and wanted to interview us in the style of an OFSTED visit on our current levels of progress and development. We had spent several hours just after half-term gathering evidence and adding this to our evaluation so we felt prepared however, as Ms Davies is a senior OFSTED inspector one didn't quite know what to expect. I am delighted that we came through this experience with a very positive outcome in almost all aspects of our school - a 'good' outcome if you will, which demonstrates the progress we have made in the last few months.

My **students of the week** are Jack L, Year 10 and Phoebe T, Year 10 for their wonderful work in the Model United Nations over the weekend. My other student of the week is Lailah P in Year 7 who has produced a wonderful poem of her own volition inspired by the Remembrance commemorations of last week. Lailah has previously shown me another wonderful set of poems she has written in her own time. These three students embody just what we are looking for in our students - intellectual curiosity and a determination to further their academic development.

Homework remains an area we really want to improve on as a school. If you haven't done please make sure you have our Show My Homework app on your phone. Getting homework done on the day it is set before students relax for the evening is such an important habit and ensures that if there are problems with understanding or resources there is time to overcome this. I hear too many students make weak excuses on homework which is disappointing. It

both slows individual progress down but also that of the class. Our work on *knowledge retrieval*, overlearning of topics and ensuring misconceptions are understood all require home learning to be done on a regular basis.

Please use the [FAB and DRAB](#) link to pass on feedback, whether it is developmental or positive we welcome your view. Also, please use the [staff member of the week](#) link to nominate a member of MECE staff who has gone over and above.

Can I finish by thanking you all for your wonderful support in terms of attendance? It remains at the very high rate of 95.4% for the term which is very encouraging and shows a great partnership between home and school.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Andy Hartley  
Headteacher