



Headteacher's Update

2 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and enjoying this fabulous weather.

We have had another excellent week, and it continues to be an absolute pleasure to work with our students. So many of them approach each and every day with a positive mindset determined to get the very most out of the days. Subsequently, we see quiet classrooms and keen hardworking students making the very most out of our curriculum offer. The high point of my days is undoubtedly walking along our corridors seeing our students learning in such a focused and enthusiastic manner.

Heat and uniform

We have made mitigations for the heat this week although the benefit of a new building means the school is nowhere near as hot as older buildings. The students have been allowed to remove their ties, undo top buttons and not wear blazers in order that they stay cooler. We will continue to monitor the heat across the summer and make these adjustments on a daily basis.

Monday sees a return to cooler temperatures so please do ensure that your son/ daughter is properly attired with their tie and blazer.

Friday Fun

Last Friday was an absolute joy and in our extended lunchtime we held the teachers v students netball match. Despite a substantial height advantage, the staff were outpointed by the girls in a competitive match watched by at least half the school. These photos represent the fun that we had, and we hope to do another 'fixture' on Friday 9th May.



Lecture



On Tuesday we held our community lecture with Dr Prem visiting, to discuss the satellite tracking of Antarctic animals. Over 60 attendees (students, staff and community visitors) heard about the application of satellites to support conservation efforts and increase understanding on the consequences of climate change. Prem's audience enjoyed participating in a quiz identifying 'seal or space' and were entranced by real footage of the discoveries made by Prem and his team as part of his explorations. It was a feast of sound and image, complemented by Prem's stories of his experiences.

The talk was made more interesting as Dr Prem is a local, growing up on the Oxford Road, attending a local comprehensive, before he secured a place at the University of Cambridge. His story is inspiring and shows that with the right levels of application and good teaching, accessing the most prestigious academic institutions are possible.



TikTok

Sadly, we have had to unpick one issue with TikTok this week. As many of you will know the minimum age for TikTok is thirteen and so it is frustrating that we have had to deal with it all. However, please can I continue to plea that parents keep an eye on student phone usage as posting about other students will always cause a reaction, upset and in

all likelihood lead to a consequence at school.

Assembly

Mrs Strong delivered a brilliant assembly on the importance of Maths and how it fits into pretty much every career and aspect of life. There were lots of questions and quick puzzles for the students to solve which they really enjoyed.

What is numeracy?

'Numeracy is a life skill – vital for you to make informed decisions in your everyday life and vital for the UK to build a strong economy and compete globally'.

'It helps people manage their personal and social lives as well as increasing opportunities at work'.

'To be numerate is to confidently and effectively **use maths** to **think logically** and **meet the everyday demands of life**'.

Why is numeracy important?

- Those with good numeracy skills earn, on average, 26% more than those without (Prince's Trust)
- The correlation between poor numeracy and poor health is clear, particularly depression
- People with poor numeracy skills are more than twice as likely to be unemployed
- Poor numeracy skills cost the economy £20.2 billion every year.
- It can affect people's confidence and self-esteem
- Direct relationship between wage distribution and numeracy skills

Cooking

- Weighing ingredients
- Portions
- Timing
- Temperatures

Numeracy question: Four friends decide to lose weight.
 Jo – 500g
 Harry – 1kg
 Kevin – 1kg 200g
 Cathy – 750g

How much weight did they lose altogether?

3kg 450g

Money

- Cost of shopping
- Correct change
- Discounts
- Bus fares

45% of adult answer this question incorrectly

Numeracy question: calculate the correct change from £100 if you bought shopping totalling £64.23

£35.77

52% of people get this answer wrong. More than a quarter are more than £1 out.

Survey

We received our student, staff and parent survey feedback earlier this week. I will be sending you a more detailed response in due course, but I just wanted to say thank you to the 80 families who responded.

The positive messages were clear as we stood high above both the Trust and national benchmarks for

- Communication
- Confidence and trust in the school
- The accessibility of the staff
- How we keep parents informed of student progress and school issues
- How well engaged parents are in the school
- The perception of the Maiden Erlegh Trust.

In terms of the student survey, their positive metrics which were also well above national and Trust benchmarks and can be summarised as follows

- That they were happy
- That they felt safe at school
- That students behaved well in class
- That students worked hard in class
- That relationships with staff were positive
- That expectations of them were clear
- That the curriculum is interesting and reflects their backgrounds

Parent Event- 14.5.25

We currently have 63 signed up for our Parent Information Evening and Forum on May 14th. The link is [here](#), and I look forward to seeing you there.

Enjoy the long weekend and we will see all the students ready to go on *Tuesday* morning.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Hartley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Andy Hartley

Headteacher