

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, hope you had a great week to slow down and even stop!?

Thanks to QE for hosting our Training Day on Monday. It is the first time schools in the Trust came together for this type of event. The focus of the day was on our pupils as people - what makes them tick and what doesn't. We also looked at creating positive learning environments for our pupils through identifying and removing barriers to their learning. Three guest speakers and the CEO from Inclusion Expert spent time with all schools sharing research findings and strategies that we can adopt to support the learning of all our pupils. The afternoon session allowed us to work together to review whole school action plans after the morning input. It was a day well spent and generated purposeful energy moving into the new half-term.

On Tuesday it was great to welcome back the pupils and start the second half of the term. The pupils seemed very excited about Wednesday evening's activities and I have to say there were a fair number of pupils who required more time in front of the mirror Thursday morning when washing!

Mrs Thompson has been busy installing our Remembrance Day memorial at the front of school. If you happen to be in the reception area feel free to have a look through the door. You will see all the bottles donated have been put to good use. This is an important period of time for EMS with staff and pupils who have family involved in our Forces. Please support this by wearing a Poppy to remember those 'there but not there'.

Over the break we continued the decorating works. The main corridor has been refreshed and colour matched to works completed elsewhere. Again, thanks to the Trust for funding this. The school is looking sharp, clean and tidy. It really provides a positive environment in which we can all take learning seriously.

The week has been focused on scrutinising our data and how we report this to you; reports will be sent out next Friday. Follow-up consultation evenings will take place on 14th and 20th November. You will become familiar with the term 'flight path' as this informs you where we think your child will be by the end of the academic year. Conversations at parents' evening will be focused around where pupils are in relation to this. We have set these 'flight paths' high, it is okay for pupils to fall below this so long as there is intervention in place to get back on track. More information to follow when reports are sent out next Friday.

My moment of the week is a chance conversation with Mrs Stewart when following my nose! It was bread week in Year 7. The previous week had seen students carry out a food science experiment to see which conditions yeast preferred. Armed with this knowledge they enthusiastically set about creating a batch of bread rolls, choosing their own shape and flavour, with the added incentive that one of them would be Chef of the Week. Mrs Stewart was so impressed by their amazing bread making skills and delicious results that in fact six Chefs of the Week were chosen! Well done EMS bakers!

Next week is Mock SATs week for our Year 6 pupils and this will be repeated in February. We are very confident that the pupils are going to produce 'best-ever' results this year. Whilst ensuring we teach the pupils well and teach them the curriculum, it is also important that pupils are 'match-fit' come May. They must be comfortable with the process, conditions and time restraints. There is also information on the school website from our recent SATs information evening.

Have a lovely weekend,

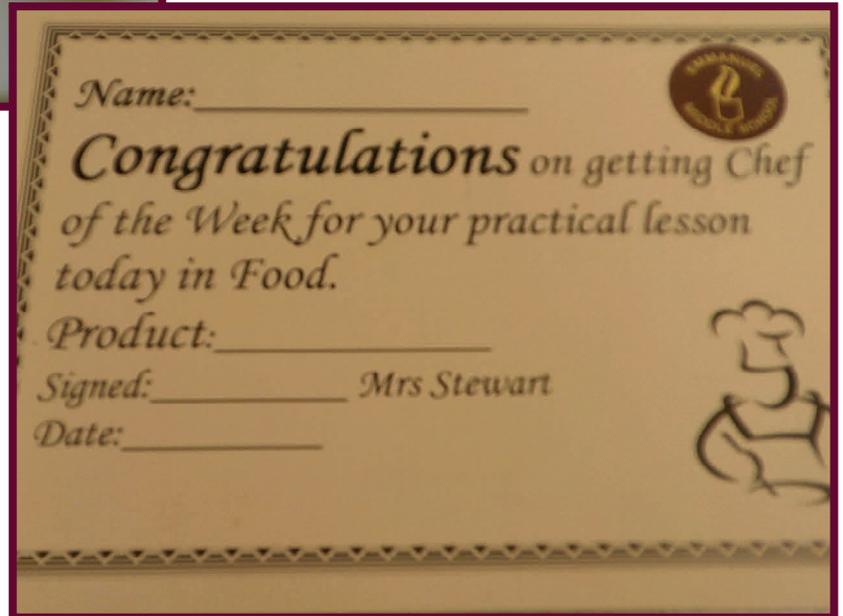
Rob Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES



Year 7 Chefs of the Week:

Imogen Holt
Jake Safder
Lilly Anna Smith
Harry Stephenson
Finley Earley
Jennifer Stepien



Nearly finished - our wonderful Poppy display.