

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our collective worship theme this week has focused on 'proud to be'. The first word that springs to mind is passion. One of our biggest responsibilities, as teachers, is to help instil a sense of passion in the pupils we have the privilege of teaching. It is my philosophy that personal development is equal to academic development. This week I am going to take a moment to celebrate our awesome school community of children and adults.

This week embodies this sense of pride and passion like no other week. Setting our Open Day/ Evening event so late in the half-term was a deliberate act to ensure school was ready, pupils had been in school for a good period of time and we had a chance to overcome any start of term issues. Despite starting this period of preparation in early September there was still last minute, late night working across the school on Wednesday evening to ensure the school was shown in its best light. Even the weather tested the new roof!

Thursday morning, welcoming guests into school for the first time in 18 months, the pupils took centre stage. The Ambassadors touring prospective parents during two morning sessions were eager to share all the great things at EMS. The pupils showed confidence in abundance, talking about the school, subjects and fielding unplanned questions. Feedback was eagerly passed on at the end of tours highlighting the excellence of our pupils.

Into the evening, a quick turnaround from pupils leaving to making sure activities, books and classrooms were ready to receive our evening visitors. Two clear themes developed during conversations and feedback. First, how proud pupils were to share their work, lead activities and engage with parents to talk about their experiences in the department they were representing. Second, the recognition of staff passion for their own subject whilst talking so enthusiastically about the education we deliver collectively was a common thread in feedback received. Our Lead Ambassadors, addressing over 300 people across three presentations, spoke with clarity, coherence and confidence. This is not an easy task! Well done Flora and Toby! I am truly grateful and appreciative of such a great school, full of positive pupils who want to learn and staff totally committed to the cause of providing a brilliant education for our pupils.

As we approach half-term, thank you for your support and understanding, particularly when case rates rose in mid-September. Please continue to regularly test at home even over the half term period. We will continue with our measures in school and whatever changes are put in place by the Government or Public Health.

The clocks change at the end of the holiday and we are nearing the time to be visible travelling to and from school. Suitable clothing and lights are the way forward, particularly for cyclists. Also, a reminder we have a staff training day on Monday 1st November so pupils return to school on Tuesday 2nd November.

Have a great half-term and enjoy a slower paced week.

Mr Christopher

