



MAHARISHI SCHOOL

CONSCIOUSNESS - BASED EDUCATION

21 December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the autumn term draws to a close here at Maharishi School, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school and to let you know what has been happening around the school since October half term.

Ofsted inspection

As you know, we were inspected by Ofsted this half term. Here are some of the things that the inspectors said about our wonderful pupils and school...

"The School's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding The promotion of pupils' spiritual and personal development is at the core of what this school does so well ... Pupils are tolerant, considerate and empathetic...they are ambitious, articulate, confident and engage very well with adults ... Pupils know how to look after themselves physically, mentally and emotionally ... The School's consciousness based studies help pupils to understand themselves very well and also the points of view of others. This helps pupils show levels of empathy and understanding beyond their age."

"Pupils currently in the school write well ... Throughout the school, teachers promote reading effectively. In the primary phase pupils read for pleasure frequently. In the secondary phase, pupils read and analyse information from the internet at a much more sophisticated level than normally seen in other pupils of their age ... Pupils of all abilities are motivated to do well, work hard and make good progress ... The combination of good achievement, excellent personal development and highly positive attitudes ensure that pupils of the Maharishi Free School are very well prepared for their next steps in education and life ..."

Attendance and Punctuality

Whole school attendance for the autumn term is 94%. Our school target for this academic year is 96%. This term Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 have the highest attendance, closely followed by Year 2 and Year 6. There has been a noticeable reduction in the number of term time holidays requested and the number of pupils who are persistently late is beginning to reduce.

In order to support families with the adjustment to the earlier start in the morning, autumn term late marks have only been recorded if a pupil has arrived after 9:10 at the secondary phase and after 9:25 at the primary phase. **From January 2018 late marks will be recorded from 9:05 at the secondary site and from 9:20 at the primary site.** Thank you for your continued support in this area.

Headteacher: Mrs L Edwards BA(Hons), PGCE.

Tel: 01695 729912 Email: enquiries@maharishischool.com www.maharishischool.com

Cobbs Brow Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 6JJ

Winter Fair

This year our Winter Fair took place on Friday 1 December at the end of the school day. Thanks to the support of our families and the commitment of our fundraising committee, we raised £1732.80. Feedback on the new time of our Winter Fair has been very positive; there was a wonderfully festive atmosphere and we had an increased number of secondary pupils joining in the festivities. Thank you so much for supporting this important annual event. As well as raising much-needed funds for the school, it is a marvellous opportunity for us to come together as a community. Money raised this year will help us to continue subsidising trips and fund some of our extra-curricular activities, as well contributing to the funds we are starting to raise in order to develop our EYFS outdoor area - more details will follow in the new year.

Extra-curricular activities and events

This half term we supported the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal, we held an 'Own Clothes Day' to raise money for Children in Need raising £246.64, we took part in Christmas Jumper Day and raised £152.50 for Queenscourt hospice and Year 2 held a cake sale and raised £109.38 which will be used to buy resources and equipment for the class. Thank you for your generous donations and contributions to these charity events.

Pupils at both sites enjoyed a school Christmas lunch this week. Children had the opportunity to show off their singing, dancing and acting skills in the primary phase winter plays - thanks to all parents and grandparents who took the time to attend and support the children. It was lovely to see so many of you there. The primary phase also watched a fantastic performance of The Abominable Snowman at the Citadel.

Extra-curricular clubs have been taking place at both phases including Construction Club, World Cinema Club, primary French Club, Eco gardening Club, Karaoke Club, secondary lunchtime Walk & Talk, GCSE Dance, GCSE French, GCSE Photography and GCSE Computing Science. The primary phase was visited by the Fire Brigade and learned about fire safety. We held our Y11 Mock Results event at the secondary site where pupils were presented with two envelopes - one containing their actual mock grades and one with the grades they are capable of achieving with good attendance, focus and revision. Year 10 and 11 visited Winstanley College to watch 'I Will Rock You' and pupils from the current Year 10 and 11, plus pupils from last year's Year 11, attended the Duke of Edinburgh Award presentation ceremony to collect their bronze and silver awards.

Headteacher's Award

At the secondary phase, the recipients of the Headteacher's Award this half term have been Oliver Cleary, Charlie Faraday, Jamie Graff, Hannah Finney, Hannah Johnson, Shelby McNally and Lydia Chew. Pupils are nominated by their teachers for a variety of reasons which this term have included independence in class, embracing challenge, confident presentation skills, wonderful attitude to peers and staff, 100% effort in sport and voluntary participation in out of schools events.

Open Day

Our next **Open Day event is taking place on Saturday 13 January at 10am**. Please invite any neighbours, friends and family with young children to come along and find out more about our unique system of education.

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Out of Hours Club

Out of Hours Club starts at 8am each morning and is available to both primary and secondary pupils. The primary school day ends at 3:30 and Out of Hours Club starts at 3:40. It has been brought to my attention that some primary phase children are regularly being collected from school at approximately 3:45. This is causing a safeguarding risk for the Out of Hours Club staff who are already very busy signing in and supervising OoH Club pupils and are not able to also supervise children who are regularly being collected late from school. **Please be aware that, from January 2018, if you arrive after 3:40 to collect your child, you will be charged the full hourly OoH rate of £3.60, even if they have only been there for a few minutes.**

Enabling Good Behaviour & Exclusions Policy

There has been a change to the Exclusions Policy which can be accessed via the school website: *About Us>School Policies>Enabling Good Behaviour & Exclusions Policy*

Forthcoming primary school events (further details to follow)

Thurs 18 January	Y6 world Museum visit
Tuesdays	Y2 writing booster 3:40 - 4:40 (Starting 16 January)
Wednesdays	Primary clubs - further details to follow in January

Forthcoming secondary school events

Mondays	Yoga in the Dome 3:30 - 4:30
Tuesdays	Dance GCSE at Base Dance 5:00 - 7:00
Wednesdays	Photography GCSE 4:00 - 6:00
Thursdays	Computing Science GCSE 4:00 - 5:45
Fridays	Karaoke Club 12:30 - 1:00
Fridays	French GCSE 3:30 - 5:00

We look forward to seeing you back at school on **Monday 8 January for 9:00am at the secondary site and 9:15am at the primary site.**

"Love opens all doors, no matter how closed they may be, no matter how rusty from lack of use. Your work is to bring unity and harmony, to open all doors which have been closed for a long time. Have patience and tolerance. Open your heart all the time." Maharishi

With warm wishes for a restful and enjoyable festive break

Mrs Edwards



Headteacher.

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