



19th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we fast approach the end of this academic year, I want to take this opportunity to provide you with some end of term information and also some return to school information in readiness for September.

However, before I lead into this, I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding this year in relation to how Meden, along with others in the education sector have had to respond to the COVID pandemic. I know at times, it may have been frustrating when we have had to undertake contact tracing, or had to extend periods of time out of school. I wholeheartedly share your frustrations. I am however hopeful, that a return to a near normal provision in September, is on the horizon.

This academic year will conclude on **Tuesday 20th July**, normal finishing times. Students, on this day are permitted to attend for free, in non-school uniform.

We sadly say goodbye to a number of colleagues who each leave us to venture into pastures new.

Mr Upton	Teacher Science
Mr Limb	Teacher of PE and Alternative provision
Mrs Paling	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Bramley-Justiz	Teacher of Spanish
Miss Crossland	Deputy Head of Science.

I am sure you will join with me in wishing these colleagues, the very best wishes for the future.

New Colleagues joining us in September are:

Miss Cooper	Teacher of Science
Miss Mannn	Assistant Headteacher
Mr Currie	Teacher of Science
Miss Carr	Teacher of Spanish
Miss Woodfield	Teacher of Science
Mr Clark	Teacher of Maths

At the point of writing this letter, the Government has published plans for schools in relation to the relaxation of COVID processes and expectations for our return in September. The information provided below is current and may be subject to change. It is my intention to write to you again to confirm arrangements towards the end of August, in readiness for the new academic year. With all of the following aspects, should there be a spike in cases in the local area, regional health protection teams may reintroduce measures to reduce cases.

Face Masks

It is no longer a requirement for staff or students to wear face masks. However, if staff or students choose to wear face masks, this will be accommodated. The wearing of face masks will no longer be enforced and is now down to personal choice.

Bubbles and Social Distancing

The use of bubble systems will no longer be necessary. Therefore, from September there will be no staggered starts to the school day, assemblies can resume and spaces can be shared. Students can mix at breaks and lunches and students will not need to adhere to social distancing.

Personal Hygiene

We will maintain the use of hand sanitisers in classrooms and students should sanitise on entry to all classrooms. Classrooms will be cleaned at regular intervals. Students and staff should continue to adhere to the “catch it, kill it, bin it” process.

Asymptomatic Testing

At the start of the academic year, students will be asked to undertake two lateral flow tests, 3-5 days apart, in school. These tests are conducted by students themselves, similar to how they were undertaken previously. If you have already given your consent in the last twelve months, there is no need for you to re-consent. For those who have not provided consent, if your consent was only verbal or if you are new to the school, please can you follow the link below to give your consent. https://www.medenschool.co.uk/forms/testing_consent.php

When students have completed two flow tests in school, they will be provided with kits to take home to complete two tests a week (Wednesday and Sunday) until the end of September, when the Government will review whether this continues or not.

Positive Cases

If a student tests positive, at home or school, they should book and undertake a PCR test, at a Testing Centre. I am pleased to say that as it currently stands, we will no longer have to send students home to isolate for being in close contact with someone who does test positive. Instead NHS Test and Trace will work with positive cases, identifying close contacts and provide further advice and guidance on next steps. This will allow schools to focus on delivering a high-quality education with minimal disruption to service, which I am delighted at!

Attendance

It is expected that all students return to school at the start of the academic year. Unless isolating or testing positive, students should make every effort to be in school and parents should ensure students attend.

Pre-Return Testing Dates

In order to effectively manage our Asymptomatic Testing Centre and to ensure all tests are completed accurately, we will slightly stagger the return of students to school. Some testing will take place during the INSET days, so students should come in to be tested and then go home again. Students will be able to use mobile phones to help with the registration process but phones should not be seen at any other time.

Students do not need to make an appointment but should turn up during the allotted times below:

Thursday 2nd September (INSET Day)

9.00am-11.00am – Y11 Students

1.00pm – 2.00pm – Y12 & Y13 Students

Thursday 2nd September (INSET Day)

1.00pm – 3.00pm – Y9 Students

Friday 3rd September (INSET Day)

12.30pm – 2.30pm – Y10 Students

September Return Dates:

Monday 6th September

Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 return to school. Students must be in school by 8:50am.

Y7 Students will undertake their first test as part of this morning. Y7 Student should make their way to the Quad. Staff will be available to provide directions.

Y11, and College students should make their way to their tutor rooms.

Tuesday 7th September

Year 8, 9 and 10 return to school. Students must be in school by 8:50 and make their way to their tutor rooms. Y8 Students will undertake their first test as part of this morning.

Year 7 and College students should go to their tutor rooms when they arrive on Tuesday.

New School Day Timings

I wrote to you earlier this term to explain the new structure of the school day. The times are as follows:

Year 7	Year 8 & Year 9
Monday: 8.50am to 4.00pm Tuesday to Thursday: 8.50am to 3.10pm Friday: 8.50am to 2.20pm	Monday to Thursday: 8.50am to 3.10pm Friday: 8.50am to 2.20pm
Year 10	Year 11
Monday: 8.50am to 3.10pm Tuesday: 8.50am to 4.00pm Wednesday & Thursday: 8.50am to 3.10pm Friday: 8.50am to 2.20pm	Monday to Wednesday: 8.50am to 4.00pm Thursday: 8.50am to 3.10pm Friday: 8.50am to 2.20pm
Meden College	
Monday: 8.50am to 3.10pm Tuesday: 8.50am to 4.00pm Wednesday & Thursday: 8.50am to 3.10pm Friday: 8.50am to 2.20pm	

As stated earlier, I will write to you again towards the end of summer with any updates but also a reminder of school standards to discuss with your children upon return.

After a fragmented and disrupted year for students, it is important that students return with the high expectations and standards that are inherent at Meden and that ultimately lead to positive student outcomes and amazing personal development.

I trust you will all have a great summer break and I look forward to seeing you in person in the next academic year.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Smith
Head of School