



Friday 15th January 2021

Dear All

Welcome to term 3, despite the extraordinary circumstances. We very much hope that you and your family are well and coping under the pressure.

We are really looking forward to the return of our students and we remind them all that we are here for them - by email, Google Meets for tutor and all lessons, comments (or private comments) on Google Classroom or by telephone (01761 438557) at any time.

Students in all year groups have received work for all subjects and expectations to meet through Google Meet for live aspects, drop-in sessions and shared resources.

Google Classroom & Google Meet - a reminder

Google Classroom is not just the perfect place to set work, provide written feedback and to communicate with students, it is also linked to Google Meet - this allows us to perform virtual live lessons, if we need to. To do this, there are a number of key guidelines that we will assume you agree to, unless you tell us otherwise:

- If video is used, only the student or parent will be visible in the view
- If video is used, there needs to be a blank wall behind that is in view
- Work will need to be completed and returned, as instructed in the Classroom communication - as always, teachers will be available to contact by email
- Students are not permitted to take screenshots or to record the screen when Google Meet is in use
- Google Meets will be live for the first 10 minutes and last 10 minutes of every lesson. This enables staff and students to set the scene, explain the work set and its learning objectives and also allows for online support for those who will benefit from it.
- Work must actually be submitted by "Hand in" function, unless it includes completion of other tasks, such as Quizziz, Seneca, Nearpod etc. Without being correctly submitted, teachers are unable to provide feedback and support on students' individual work.

Progress review discussion with parents & carers

Huge thanks for all Year 12 parents and carers who joined us for these virtual meetings. We fully intend to run this for years 13 later this term. The slight delay is due to the changes at a Government level to the way that qualifications will be awarded, which has not yet been finalised for either Year 13 or Year 11. Parents and carers of students in Year 11 will receive a separate letter with details of their Virtual Subject Progress Evenings here: [Year 11 Parent/Carer Virtual Subject Evenings](#).



For Year 10 and 11 students:

There will be two data collections this term where all teachers provide a judgement grade of 1 to 4 on the work students are submitting using the grades outlined below:

- **1. Excellent** - All or almost all work is completed and submitted online; good attendance at lessons; meeting or exceeding our high expectations.
- **2. Good** - Work is attempted and submitted; lessons are attended; meeting our high expectations.
- **3. Requires Improvement** - Some work is completed and submitted; lessons are attended irregularly; not meeting our high expectations.
- **4. Inadequate** - No or little work completed or submitted; not meeting basic expectations.

1. **Data Collection Window 1:** 20/01/21 Year 10; 25/01/21 Year 11
2. **Data Collection Window 2:** 04/02/21 Year 10; 09/02/21 Year 11

Preparation for next week's Engineering exams in Year 12

This has gone really well so far with Mr Bartlett and Mrs Woodard providing revision and exam technique support throughout the week, both virtually and in-person. A reminder that these exams are taking place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

Year 10 BTEC Exam Cancellations

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, confirmed this week that the February and March BTEC examinations will be cancelled. As a result, both the Enterprise and the D(M)IT exams, scheduled for February 1st and 4th, will now not go ahead. Nevertheless, it is imperative that Year 10 students continue to work really hard because Mr Richardson-Grubb will need to use any classroom (and virtual) work and assessments as evidence, to inform the overall grade. Unfortunately, we are unable to give you any further information on how grades are going to be calculated; this process is under consultation between the Government, DfE, OfQUAL and Pearson (BTEC). Mr Richardson-Grubb will continue to teach the course exam content for both Enterprise and D(M)IT; we envisage that this will continue until further notice. After that, the internally assessed components will be taught. If you do have any questions, please do email [Marvin Richardson-Grubb](mailto:Marvin.Richardson-Grubb) .

For Year 13s

Please note the [letter from Mrs Ward](#) sent yesterday evening with details of the way forward now that examinations have been cancelled.



Year 10 Physical Fitness Mendip Studio School kit

The kit is finally now ready to be ordered! Please follow the link below to the order form. Sizes can be gained from the attached document.

[Order your MSS PE kit here!](#)

Year 11 Amazon Longitude Explorer Competition

The Amazon Longitude Explorer competition will be going ahead for the Year 11 team working on the Raspberry Pi rainforests and education project. **Simon PUGH-JONES** will be in contact with the students team next week to finalise the application.

Mass Testing at Mendip Studio School

We have now completed two weeks of testing for all the staff and students attending school. We have the capacity to test all students attending for support or exams. Students will be tested on the morning of their first day in school and will receive the result in 30minutes.

Please do follow us on Facebook under “The Mendip Studio School” and let us know what you think.

All the very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Hain", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Hain
Headteacher



A reminder for all students, visitors and staff attending school about masks and when they should be worn:

1. When entering the building or moving between buildings and in corridors, if in another building
2. When moving from one classroom to another
3. When seated in a communal area facing each other (the hub, snug or office)
4. When queuing for food from the canteen
5. If in a shared provision classroom (e.g. one of the two D(M)IT classes in Y10 with Mr Grubb or applied science with Mr Pugh-Jones and Mrs Baber in Y12)

Absence Procedures, for students attending school virtually and physically - an important reminder

Just a reminder that Parents and Carers need to call **01761 438557 by 8.30am** on the day of absence, in order for us to record the absence correctly. On the message left, regarding absence, parents/carers need to include the description of the reason for absence, name of the student and the likely return time and date to school. If the absence is so serious that it extends beyond three days, we will need medical advice to be sought and evidenced. Mrs Willcox or Mr Leeder will contact parents/carers during the day, if we need further information. Work will not be set for students who are unwell. In the rare event of authorised isolation, due to Covid-19, work will be made available on Google Classroom (see above).

A reminder of Covid-19 symptoms:

- *A new persistent cough*
- *A raised temperature*
- *A sudden loss of taste and/or smell*