

**Friday 10  
September  
2021**

**Dear All**

We have come to the end of our first week back of the new academic year and the students have already impressed with their positive attitudes, readiness to learn and commitment to their next steps.

We need up to date contact details so please [complete the following form](#) and give it to your son/daughter to return to school or email it to [nwillcox@mendipstudioschool.org.uk](mailto:nwillcox@mendipstudioschool.org.uk). Without it, we cannot set up ParentPay or communicate effectively with you in case of emergency or for progress updates.

### ***Years 12 and 13:***

Timetables have been issued, tweaked when necessary and re-issued. All students have been asked to identify 3 double periods that they would like to be blocked out as times that they are not expected in school. For some students, this is a completed day per week; for others, this is spread as 3 doubles before break or after lunch. These requests have been programmed into our school attendance monitoring system and therefore, at these times, students will not be expected on the school premises. However; at all other times, whether there are scheduled lessons or not, students must be on the premises, privately studying or pursuing other preparations for their next steps.

The students have upgraded their common room and we are looking to obtain some comfortable seating for students too. We are also looking to develop areas of quiet private study for students, though, by arrangement with teachers, many students work in the back of other small group lessons, accessing their work through the school's extensive IT provision.

### ***Year 10***

Starting a new school, especially a unique small school like ours, is challenging for young people. We have been really impressed with the majority of students - their superb attitude, eagerness to succeed and positive contribution. For those who have needed reminders of our expectations, we have seen improvement. Our utmost priority is students' safety - this

also underpins students' ability to learn. For a minority of students, we have temporarily removed privileges, in order to make crystal clear their responsibility to be the best version of themselves, contributing to the school community positively.

## ***Year 11***

Year 11 have returned with vigour, mature attitudes and commitment to succeed. Year 11 is a tough year. Soon after Half Term, there will be full mock exams in all core subjects. This will also take place in March. Following both mock periods, there will be exam post mortem, corrections and a clear view about the priorities for further revision and deeper learning. Meanwhile, it's really important that students get into good habits of Independent Prep and also routines of relaxation, social life, exercise and healthy eating, in order to make the best possible success of their final year of GCSE.

## ***Healthy Relationships Workshops - Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th September***

Tender is an external charity that will be running workshops next week for all year groups on Wednesday and Thursday. The focus of the workshops will be '*managing difficult emotions*'. This is part of the compulsory Sex and Relationships Education (SRE). Tender is an arts charity working with young people to prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence by promoting healthy relationships based on equality and respect. Please use this link for further information <https://tender.org.uk/>.

## ***Covid Testing:***

Testing will be completed in school for the coming week. Years 10 and 12 will be tested before school from 8.30am on Monday and Years 11 and 13 on Wednesday. We will perform one test per week with every student, and **students will need to perform one test at home every week too**. We have oodles of home kits for testing and we urge all students to take home as many as they need. Students or parents/carers will need to log the result of their home test, as they have previously.

Results for tests that students take in school will be logged by staff here on the central Government database.

**Research & Development Sessions (R&D Thursdays after school):** **starting on Thursday 23rd September**

Date	R&D Clubs running
Thursday 23rd September	Horticultural and Orchid Club for All Year Groups Media R&D for years 10 and 11 only Reptile Group for years - all year groups (student led) Lego Mindstorms for all year groups Art & Design - all year groups ( <b>NEW</b> and student led)

If you have any queries, please contact Nic Willcox at [nwillcox@mendipstudioschool.org.uk](mailto:nwillcox@mendipstudioschool.org.uk)

All the very best,



**Bruce Hain**

Headteacher