



Friday 27th November 2020

Dear All

Congratulations to Year 11 students for conducting themselves with their typical commitment, organisation and positive attitudes during their mock exams this week - now complete! This is a year group that has suffered disproportionately, along with Year 13s, from the disruption caused by the pandemic and I take my hat off to them all.

Today, we will celebrate the end of the year 11 mocks with a lunch time, quiz and festive music in the hub for Year 11 students, marking the end of the mock exams for which they have worked so hard. Huge thanks to staff, students and our community, under the leadership of Miss Baber, for the contributions to decoration - which includes three Christmas trees!

We are really looking forward to **welcoming back Years 10 and 12 on Monday morning, 30th November** and we hope that our contact over the isolation period has been sufficient to keep them all in the loop. We have no reported cases and no student has received a positive case that originated from attendance to school.

Year 13 - Mocks starting next week

Mocks are upon us very soon and progress review meetings will take place in January. Please join me in wishing our Year 13 students all the very best for their final preparations - this is a challenging time and a balance of work, rest and play is the route through. At this stage, there is no better way to prepare for exams than to practise past papers in timed conditions; mark them with the markscheme; correct them; do the same questions again, and repeat the cycle. Over the years, examiners run out of ways to ask the same questions, so the more practice papers-marking-correction-redoing, the better. Any support parents and carers can provide for students to time and go through completed papers at home, will make the world of difference.

Following this, we will arrange a similar celebration for their completion of the mocks, as for the Year 11s.

Year 12 Progress discussions with parents/carers and subject teachers- week beginning Monday 7th December

As promised, we will be inviting you to meet virtually for appointments with all students' subject teachers. You will receive an invitation to join School Cloud and Mrs Willcox will provide the details. We used this platform to conduct discussions for years 11 and 10 earlier in the term and it was a great success. The invitations will allow you to book meetings with each subject staff member representing students' curricula.

Up-coming Charity event: Save the Children & Stephen Lawrence Trust

We are encouraging all students to make a contribution to the charities and to wear a dazzling Christmas jumper and/or hat on Friday 11th December.

Particularly for years 10 and 12, A reminder for all students 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)

Please make sure that students have a suitable face mask to bring to school and that they remember to bring it to school every day.

Absence Procedures - 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. 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.

A reminder of Covid-19 symptoms:

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

Google Classroom - a reminder, in the event of partial/temporary closure

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 will allow 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

Please do follow us on Facebook under “The Mendip Studio School”; Instagram @mendipstudioschool.org.uk and Twitter @mendipstudiosch and let us know what you think.

All the very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Hain", written over a light blue dotted line.

Bruce Hain
Headteacher

