

15 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start off by reiterating my thanks in regards to the amount of support that has gone into ensuring students come to school in the correct uniform. By 30 September nearly every student was in the correct uniform, demonstrating their clear pride and respect in the school. It is very important that we equip students with the skills and expectations of adult life and it will be very rare that a student will enter a job where a dress code is not required. In addition, a uniform provides a sense of identity and respect. The most important part of the respect, being respect in themselves and recognising they can be the best they can be.

We also strive for students to have the best attendance they can. For every lesson that a student does not attend, they are disadvantaged in their ability to perform to their potential. Good attendance is 95% or above. Persistent absence is an attendance that falls below 90%. We will be writing to parents if we have some concerns surrounding attendance, trying to find ways to support both parents and students in ensuring that any barriers to coming into school are removed and the students have the best life chances.

If a student does not attend their lessons whilst on the school site then this is truanting and is a safeguarding concern. In order to ensure that students are safe, we do have a robust set of steps for any student who does unfortunately decide to do this, details of which I have outlined below.

- 1) In the first instance we will try and encourage the student into their normal lesson.
- 2) If a student refuses or is unable to return to their normal lesson we will relocate them for learning, either into another lesson of the same subject or into our regulation room for the rest of that period.
- 3) If a student still refuses, we will phone home and ask for you to speak to your child and try and encourage them into making the right choices.
- 4) Finally, if all of the above fails we may take the decision to suspend a child for failing to comply with the school's behaviour system.

Of course we hope students make the right decision and do not need to progress through the above stages, but we really value support from home in enabling students to make the right decisions.

It is important that all students are engaging with the 'Medina Way' of being **ready** to learn, **respecting** themselves and others and being **safe** around school.

We also understand that it is important that students are rewarded for their engagement, attitude, attendance and resilience. So, we have added some important rewards for students. Each staff member will have five stars per week to award to students who demonstrate hard work, resilience or notable improvement. Students who receive these stars will receive recognition emails home and also be entered into a prize draw for prizes. In addition, we will also send postcards home for academic achievement, consistent effort, personal growth and positive contributions, as well as students with good and improving attendance will not only receive recognition from ourselves but also be entered into a prize draw.

A high quality education does not happen in isolation and we recognise the importance of working closely with home to ensure the best possible outcomes for students. If there are any barriers standing in the way of your child achieving success, please contact the year team and they will be ready on hand to assist.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Pearce-Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Phil Pearce-Jones
Head of Medina College