

13 April 2026

Dear parents/carers

Welcome to the Summer Term

We hope that you and your family enjoyed a restful break at some point over the Bank Holiday weekend. As we begin the final term of the academic year, we would like to share some important reminders, updates and key dates for your diary.

Our vision at Medina College is for every student to enjoy an exciting, happy, broad, balanced and safe school experience. We want to focus on the positives and the mature, constructive behaviours that the vast majority of our students demonstrate every single day. However, to maintain this environment, we must also be clear about our expectations and how we will address behaviours that fall short of them.

School Culture and The Core Rule: Respect

This week, our leader-led assemblies focus on building a strong, positive school culture deeply rooted in the core value of respect. Using an 'iceberg' metaphor, the assembly highlights how visible negative behaviours - such as truancy, rudeness, mobile phone misuse, wearing non-uniform items, disruption and vandalism - are surface-level issues - but are the visible ones. A truly successful community relies on deeper foundations like ambition, courage, confidence and kindness to create a safe and happy environment.

The assembly breaks down "respect" into three essential pillars:

- **Self-respect:** Knowing your worth and taking ownership of your actions.
- **Respect for others:** Understanding that true respect goes beyond merely not swearing at someone; it includes active listening and positive body language.
- **Respect for the shared school environment:** Taking pride in our facilities and community spaces.

Crucially, we emphasise to the students that the significant time and financial resources currently spent, at times, managing poor behaviour and repairing damage could instead be invested in exciting future opportunities for them. We are currently exploring incredible experiences, such as career events and trips to London, Paris, Iceland, and South Africa!

Consistency of Expectations

Students have shared with us that they would like to see a more consistent approach applied to everyone to ensure expectations feel fair. Therefore, as a reminder:

- **Uniform:** Non-uniform items are not permitted in school. Hoodies will be confiscated at the school gate in the morning and will need to be collected at the end of the day.
- **Mobile Phones:** Phones must be turned off and kept at the bottom of school bags. Phones used or seen during the school day will be confiscated. If this persists, the student will be required to hand their phone in at the start of every day.
- **Attendance and Truancy:** Students who truant lessons will be offered support to return to class or relocate. If these interventions are not successful, it may lead to a suspension.
- **Punctuality:** Lateness to school and to lessons will be closely monitored and followed up; punctuality is a vital standard that the future workplace will demand.
- **Respect for Property:** Graffiti and vandalism - including discharging a fire extinguisher - are highly likely to lead to a suspension and discussions with home regarding the cost of the damage.
- **Conduct:** Rudeness, verbal abuse and refusal to follow instructions will all be followed up with appropriate sanctions.

Rewards

We always prefer to focus on the positives! Mr Murdoch will be launching an exciting update to our Rewards system this week. We will share the full details with you in the upcoming newsletter once the students have been introduced to the new developments.

Important Safeguarding Update: Zero Tolerance on Sharing Toilet Cubicles

As a direct extension of our commitment to keeping all students safe, we are enforcing a strict boundary regarding the use of school toilets. To ensure the absolute safety, privacy and well-being of our school community, **there must never be more than one student in a toilet cubicle at any time.**

We are taking this matter extremely seriously to eliminate safeguarding risks, bullying and anti-social behaviour. Please have a very clear conversation with your child to reinforce the message they are receiving in assembly this week: **if students are found sharing a toilet cubicle, it will result in an instant suspension.** We make no apologies for taking a firm stance on matters that compromise student safety and we thank you for your full backing on this issue.

Upcoming Events

We will be sharing information with you about Mr Rock's 100 mile challenge for Huntington's Disease - the whole school community will be taking part in this in some way. Additionally we have a 50 year anniversary of Medina College/High School coming up, and there will be opportunities for 'Medina' Alumni, as well as current 'Medina' students to celebrate this.

Key Dates for the Summer Term:

- **Wednesday 22 April:** Year 7 Parents' Evening
- **Thursday 30 April & Friday 1 May:** Mr Rock's 100-mile event
- **Monday 4 May:** Bank Holiday
- **Tuesday 5 May:** First Year 11 Exam (*Please note: the school day will swap Period 4 and Break 2*)
- **Friday 22 May:** Last day of Summer 1 half-term (*Normal finish time: 3.15pm*)
- **Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May:** Half Term
- **Tuesday 16 June:** Final Year 11 Exam
- **Friday 19 June:** School closed due to IW Festival
- **Monday 22 June:** School closed due to IW Festival (*Online learning will be set*)

- **Thursday 2 July:** Year 10 Taster Day at The Island VI Form
- **Tuesday 7 July:** Year 6 into 7 Transition Day
- **Wednesday 8 July:** Development Day (*School closed to students*)
- **Friday 10 July:** Activity Day to celebrate 50 years of Medina College/High School
- **w/c Monday 13 July:** Year 10 Work Experience
- **Friday 24 July:** Last day of the academic year (*12.45pm finish*)

Paul Sandiford A Mursell

Mrs J Paul, Mrs K Sandiford, Mrs A Mursell