

Dear Parents and Carers,

Looking ahead to the Autumn Term - key expectations and information to support your child(rens) learning.

As you are aware, I have now been at Medina for several weeks and have been delighted to have the opportunity to meet the majority of students, staff and some parents, including those with children looking forward to starting at the school in September. There have been a number of lovely events since my arrival, such as the school Awards' Evening, in which over 94 awards were presented to students by the Chair of Governors, and the Year 7 Federation Games against Carisbrooke, which saw the majority of Year 7 taking part in a variety of inclusive sporting activities with Medina claiming victory! This is in addition to a wide variety of rewards trips including the fantastic opportunity to visit the Festival of Speed at Goodwood and Legoland. The Year 11 prom was also a wonderful occasion in which the students were able to join together to celebrate all they had achieved and look forward to the next steps of their education with excitement and pride.

These activities show the dedication of the staff to providing a rich variety of opportunities for the students and the students' zest for life and enthusiasm to take part. As part of my role as Interim Executive Headteacher, I fully intend to build on these opportunities, and, in particular, the opportunity for students to take leading roles in their community through positions of responsibility such as prefects, further develop student voice so that they have an opportunity to shape the future of their school and support each other through activities such as peer mentoring, helping with key school activities such as Open Evenings or being buddies to new Year 7 students. Drawing on the strengths and talents of our student body and enabling them to take responsibility and engage them in the future of their school is a key and important focus as I lead the school into its next phase of development.

It is my core and central belief that students thrive in a culture of high expectations, where the rules and expectations are clear and consistently applied; there is a caring and respectful approach from staff, and the students are rewarded and recognised for their effort and hardwork. In my experience, it is under these conditions that students achieve their very best, feel recognised as individuals and grow into the best version of themselves. It is our job as educators to bring out the talents in each young person and ensure their needs are being met.

It is probably of no surprise to you that it is my intention to hold on to and build on the many wonderful aspects of Medina that I have found since my arrival, but also make clear and decisive changes to the aspects of the school that I do not feel are currently serving the students well.

As previously outlined, I believe that clarity of expectations and consistency of application regarding behaviour and uniform are the foundations on which strong teaching learning and opportunities for students to grow and develop are built. I am therefore writing in advance of September to set out my expectations in relation to uniform and behaviour. This is to give you

the opportunity to purchase any items of uniform necessary over the summer holiday period and for you to have absolute clarity regarding what is permitted. I am aware that uniform purchases can be costly - we have therefore tried to ensure that items can be bought at a reasonable cost including the allowing of all black trainers. If however, you are experiencing any hardship with respect to uniform purchase please contact the school via the following email address medina@iwef.org.uk and we will do all we can to support you.

I have attached the uniform list for your information and the list below outlines the clear expectations:

- White school shirt - pointed collar - short or long sleeves - worn tucked in.
- Black tailored trousers - no leggings.
- Black pleated school skirt - no other type of skirt will be allowed.
- School tie.
- School Blazer.
- School jumper - optional.
- Black or white short or long socks - plain - to be worn below the knee in the case of long socks.
- Black or neutral tights - no socks worn over tights.
- Black school shoes or **all black** trainers.
- Coat - optional.

NB: Hooded tops will not be allowed once a child comes through the school gate and will be confiscated if worn.

From September, your child's form tutor will check uniform each morning and you will be contacted if there are any concerns regarding uniform and a plan agreed to rectify the situation. Any child who fails to follow the uniform policy will be referred to the Head of Year who will contact you to discuss how the situation can be resolved as quickly as possible. If the matter persists then it will be referred to the Leadership Team member attached to each year group who will arrange a meeting with you so the matter can be resolved. Our aim is to work with you to ensure that all students are in smart, correct uniform, and wear their uniform with pride. To support this change, please contact the school via the following email address: medina@iwef.org.uk, if you would like to enquire about any pre-loved uniform or your require support with purchasing uniform.

Alternatively, as always, uniform is available from [Kids and Co](#) and [The School Shop](#), both based in Ryde. We have also done some research and a more cost effective option on certain items, such as the pleated black skirt, is to use one of the supermarket chains such as Tesco, Asda or Matalan - a pack of two black pleated skirts cost in the region of £15. We have also purchased new uniform which we will have available in school. Your child will be able to borrow this for the day. The need to use this option should be rare, but I wanted to ensure that we did all that we can to support the students in wearing the correct uniform. From Monday 30th September any child who is not in the correct uniform will not be allowed in circulation and will complete their work away from their peers. I have delayed the introduction of this aspect of the policy until September 30th in order to give parents the opportunity to purchase new uniform and for the students to adjust to the new expectations. Going forward I intend to consult regarding the introduction of an option for students to wear a tailored short in the summer and

more details will follow on this in due course. Any child who refuses to borrow clean and new uniform will be sanctioned according to the behaviour policy.

Since my arrival it is clear that the vast majority of students at Medina behave exceptionally well. The staff who have taken the students on trips more recently have said that their behaviour has been exemplary. This is to be celebrated and moving forward it is my aim to ensure that the students who meet the schools expectations day in, day out - get the recognition they deserve.

It has also, however, been evident to me that there are a minority of students that do not regularly attend lessons or disrupt the learning of others. Truancy from lessons is a serious safeguarding concern and will be dealt with as such from September. As a parent, you have the right to expect that your child is in their timetabled lesson and that the school is aware of their exact whereabouts at all times. In addition, every child has the right to learn, free from disruption in a calm, orderly and caring environment. I will be carrying out a full and thorough review of the behaviour policy in the Autumn term, but in the meantime, we will be in contact with parents of children who have been identified as truanting from lessons or have shown defiance to reasonable requests from staff in order to organise a meeting before or at the start of the next term to outline how this will be dealt with moving forwards. Truancy and failure to follow the instructions of staff to return to lessons is a serious breach of the schools behaviour and safeguarding policy and will be dealt with as such moving forwards. In addition to this, I am aware that the school has a responsibility to ensure each child's learning needs are met and I am in the process of revising the schools inclusion provision to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to learn in the very best environment for them and get the academic, social or emotional support they need from trained professionals and a clear plan is in place for each child that is agreed by the parents and regularly reviewed. This provision will also be explained as part of the planned parental meetings.

As part of this, I am pleased to announce that Kerie James has been appointed to the post of Assistant Headteacher in charge of Behaviour and Safeguarding, Richard Wiseman has been appointed as Director of Progress and Attainment and Matt Jones has been appointed to Head of Year 11. We are also in the process of appointing a Family Liaison Officer and HISP have provided us with three days a week support from a specialist teacher for Behaviour and Well-being - Katie Sandiford. I will be working closely with Phil Pearce- Jones in his role as Head of School and Dave Mumford, Head of Sixth Form, as well as Louise Southwell, Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning and Debbie Connor, Assistant Headteacher, SENDCo. Together we will ensure we build on the areas of great practice and harnesses the dedication and desire from the staff to ensure that the students at Medina achieve their potential.

For Year 11 students, their final examinations are fast approaching, and I have made it a priority to put a clear plan in place to support their learning over the next two terms before their external exams. The plan for Year 11 includes a mentoring programme, extra lessons with a focus on practice examination type questions, support to aid their independent learning such as the use of GCSE POD, a VI form and careers information evening and a Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday, 11 September. At this evening, the teachers will set out your child's current position based on their Year 10 trial examinations and what they can do to progress in preparation for their future examinations. This is a very important evening and I would urge you to prioritise this in terms of your attendance - working together with the school to support your child can add as much as one grade to their overall performance in each subject.

This is an important time of change for the school as we look forward to working as part of the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HISP) family of schools. It brings a wealth of opportunity to share good practice in relation to teaching and learning, and access to the highest quality professional development opportunities for our staff in order that they can support your children. I am an outward looking, driven leader, who will always strive to bring the very best opportunities for our community of students and keep their best interests in the heart of all I do. I am very much looking forward to sharing the benefits that this will bring over the coming months with you.

I very much hope you understand my vision for the school and the rationale for the immediate changes I am making . Your support is vital as we move into the next phase of development for the school and I am looking forward to meeting many more of you at Parents' Evenings, forthcoming school events or individual meetings regarding your child(ren).

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a lovely summer holiday and look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back (in full school uniform) in September. As a reminder Year 7 and 11 start back at school on Wednesday, 4th September in order to enable them to settle into their studies, followed by Year 8,9 and 10 on Thursday 5th September at 8.45am.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Croke', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Lisa Croke B.Ed (Hons), MA, NPQH
Interim Executive Headteacher