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Meden News

March 2021

Message from the Headteacher

As we near the end of a busy and, once again, unconventional term, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for your continued support of the school. The New Year started with a third national lockdown, resulting in the school site being closed, for the majority of students, with lessons being delivered “remotely”. Our live lessons have been well received by students, who have engaged so well throughout the lockdown. Although this term has been disrupted, it still has been an extremely busy one, featuring amazing student achievements, many of which that are included within this newsletter.

Three weeks ago, school returned to a form of normality open, once again, to all students. For the first 10 days of our return, students were introduced to the idea of regular, asymptomatic Lateral Flow Tests, quite a mouthful, literally. Once again, our students rose to the challenge, showing the amazing, positive attitude they regularly display. Throughout that period, school completed nearly 3000 tests, a feat of organisation and coordination, managed by our school support staff, a big thank you to staff and students.

It’s great to read in the newsletter about how our students have continued to help our local communities, either through charitable work, or by just being prepared to help others. They truly exemplify our school mission of having high aspirations of themselves, the school and our community.

I continue to be so proud of our staff in school. It’s great to see them recognised in the newsletter for their unending support for our students, throughout the pandemic. We continue to develop our student support within school and I would like to welcome Alice to the new student services team. She is already a true asset to the school supporting our students in school.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Sue Robinson, our Finance Officer, who is retiring after 18 years working at the school. Sue has been part of the fabric of the school and will be missed by staff and students. We all wish her a very happy and long retirement.

Finally thank you to all parents and carers who continue to work in partnership with the school; I am looking forward to developing these relationships throughout next term.



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Back to School

Meden school staff were, once again, impressed beyond words with the students' attitude to learning when they returned to school on March 15th. The students have continued to show the incredible resilience and determination that they have demonstrated, consistently, throughout this last year and we are so very proud of them. They have risen to the challenges,



thrown at them throughout this pandemic, with courage and an amazing 'can-do' attitude. Our students' high levels of self-motivation and their willingness to learn was evident throughout the recent lockdown, where a staggering 80% of lessons were attended online. Staff could not speak highly enough of the students' participation in the live lessons, and of the quality of work that the students produced. The students have continued this outstanding level of work throughout these last two weeks of being back in the classroom. On behalf of all the staff at Meden, I would like to thank,

and congratulate our students for striving to be the very best version of themselves, and I know that they will continue to thrive in their education, which ultimately, will lead to them living their best life possible. Mrs Brett

HELP US TO HELP YOU!

Updating Contact Information

Communication with our parents/carers during the Pandemic has been really important and we often find that contact information is incorrect. The main channels of communication are

- Text Messages
- Emails
- MCAS (MyChildatSchool) app
- Twitter



Please help us to keep you informed of all updates in school by letting us know asap of any family changes or changes of address or telephone number. You can update your details on the MCAS app, by calling reception or by emailing office@medenschool.co.uk. If you have any questions please get in touch.

Thank you

I am sure you will all agree that all of our staff at Meden School have worked incredibly hard during the Pandemic to not only ensure that students could access work, but also that families were safe and well. This is our job and it is what gives us the greatest sense of achievement. We received many messages of thanks and support during that time and it really kept us going when times were hardest. It was particularly lovely that a few of our staff were highlighted within the community for all of the help and support they gave to particular families and we want to celebrate this too

Mrs Rogers - Standards Officer

Mrs Rogers who many of you will no doubt recognise was nominated by the community to receive an award. "Another massive thank you to Mrs Rogers for all her hard work. She has put everything in to our children to keep them safe and feel supported. Mrs Rogers loves working with the children and is a well respected member of the team.

Congratulations to Mrs Rogers and thank you!



Mr Salway (History), Mr Bird (Maths) and Mr Bailey (DT)

All three of these teachers were nominated by one of our parents, Mrs Shaw who has a son at Meden with SEN needs.

She said " These teachers have been an enormous support to my son, they inspire him and motivate him to want to learn. They see his potential and constantly strive to help him get to where he needs to be. They look beyond the learning disability and support him in every way possible to learn and achieve.

They are an absolute credit to their school and their profession." Thank you



Extra-curricular Student Achievements

Despite many of the challenges brought about by COVID-19, many of our students continue to amaze us with the activities and achievements that occur outside of school. I wanted to share some of these with you.

FREYA PERCIVAL Y8

Freya Percival (Y8) is a very competent horse rider. She competes at dressage and accomplished two podium places in the Quest championship held at Epworth Equestrian.

She was the youngest competitor in the U21 class and received a 1st and 3rd respectively.

Well done Freya!



CHARLIE SHEPPARD Y10

Charlie is a remarkable young man, keen to make a difference to his local community. Firstly during the initial Lockdown Charlie raised money for charity by doing a sponsored bike ride and was successful in raising over £1000. Bike riding is a real passion for Charlie and he wanted to try and get the council to build a Pump Track in Edwinstowe, where he lives. Unaware of his project at first, Charlie's mum explained to me that Charlie had himself approached the District Council with a plan and wanted to discuss the possibility of building a Pump Track because he feels that "many young people would love to see and use." He even set up a facebook page in order to gain support and get new ideas. Determined to put his idea forward, Charlie arranged a meeting with the District Councillor Paul Peacock who agreed to explore the idea.

On speaking to his mum earlier, she couldn't be more proud of him. She was thrilled that not only has the funding been approved for the track but that they would like Charlie to be part of the planning and design of the track, which is amazing. They are currently look at a possible site on the new housing development Thoresby Vale. Well done Charlie!



SARAH HARDINGHAM Y7



Sarah is a very kind and caring young lady who has been giving up her time to try and raise money for the less fortunate in the community through her love of baking. If you have ever been lucky enough to taste one of Sarah's creations you will know just how delicious they are! It all began with a visit to the local greengrocer shop "Allotment Box" in Warsop where Sarah noticed a local woman bringing in cakes to sell. She then spoke to the owner of the shop who agreed for Sarah to offer her muffins in the shop in order to raise funds for the Sherwood Food Bank. Not only does Sarah bake the cakes herself, she also designs all the packaging to make them look professional. Sarah is currently on target to raise £200 in the coming weeks and is hoping to expand the range of cakes on offer as she continues to raise money. What a lovely thoughtful young lady! Well done Sarah!

Mansfield Rotary Club 30th Annual Children of Courage Awards

Every year Mansfield Rotary Club ask us to nominate any students who "exemplifying moral and spiritual courage in the face of personal adversity and difficulty." This year we nominated two young ladies who fit this criteria and both received awards see below.

Leoni Bragg in Year 9

Leoni is so brave. She has shown admirable resilience and determination as she copes with undergoing chemotherapy as well as the isolating pressures of the coronavirus pandemic. Leoni's strength and determination is admirable! Leoni, whose favourite song is Copycat, by Billie Eilish, says the subject she enjoys most at school is English "because there's more freedom with answers to things, you can interpret things in your own way and are able to use imagination and more in-depth thought in what you're saying. We are very proud of you Leoni!



Abigail Cross Y8

Abi has not let some of the tough times she has faced in her life stop her from giving everything to her learning. Her resilience and amazing attitude to learning means she is within the top 2% of all pupils. She is a well-liked member of our school community, by both staff and students alike, due to her kind and approachable nature Abi is a keen ice-skater and currently enjoys having lessons. She said her favourite subject at school is maths because she can see she is making lots of progress at the moment. A true inspiration!



Testing...testing...and more testing!

The first 2 weeks of our return to school, following our most recent lock down, saw Meden successfully complete the mass COVID testing of all of our students. Once again, every year group, rose to this most recent of challenges and with positivity and maturity. All 3 tests for the students were completed within the 2 weeks allowing us to move to "Home Testing" in advance of the Easter Break. Nearly 3000 test were completed by students over the 2 week period, with every test having a negative result. Students took their tests home last week in order to test themselves in readiness for the final week of term. Completing the tests at home



remains so important to ensure, as much as possible, the ongoing COVID safety of our school community. Could I thank our parents and students for all of their support with this challenge. Without it none of this would be possible and, as we strive for a degree of normality in our lives, this testing helps us to creep ever closer to this. Further tests will be issued to students as and when we receive them from NHS Test and Trace.

Just a reminder that when you have completed your tests you need to register them both with the test and trace website and also on our school website and here are the links you need.

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

https://www.medenschool.co.uk/forms/testing_result.php

Any further questions please contact school who will be happy to help.



Student Services

Hello, my name is Miss Hibbert and I'm the new Student Support Officer in student services. That means I can help you with solving the queries you have relating to your school day. You can find me in the new student services office along with Mrs Guy, Mrs Fairweather, Mr Harris and Mrs Rogers. You can come and see me before or after school as well as during break or lunch and I will do my best to help you.



Throughout lockdown the site team have been busy creating our new Student Services facility. Located off the main quad, the new area is design to be a 'one-stop shop' for our students' day to day queries.

We would like to introduce you to Miss Hibbert who is our newest member of the team and who is the main point of contact in Student Services. Also located in Student Service is the First Aid Point, the Attendance Team and the School Standards Team. Students are able to visit Student Services before or after school and during break and lunch times.

Wishing You a Long and Happy Retirement Sue

Today we say a fond farewell to one of our longest serving members of the Meden Team. Sue Robinson, our Finance Officer is retiring after 18 years working at Meden School. Sue has been a very dedicated and well respected member of staff who have done so much for the students and the school. During her time here not only has she work tirelessly in her role as Finance Officer but has given up many hours of her own to support activities going on inside and outside of school. I'm sure you will join us in wishing her a very long and happy retirement!



Key Dates: Year 8 Parents Evening 22nd April Year 7 Parents Evening 13th May