



Aspiration Excellence Achieve

Meden News

October 2021



Message from the Headteacher

What a great start it has been to this new academic year. I have been so impressed by our students who have been brilliant and who continue to meet the high expectations we set at Meden School. Our new Year 7 pupils have settled in really well and have worked hard, adapting to the new challenges faced in secondary school. It has also been a pleasure to welcome the new members of staff to our Meden Team.

COVID remains a challenge to us all, both in school and the wider community and this inevitably impacts on attendance in school. It is so important that children attend when they can because we all know absence from school leads to lost learning and ultimately affects achievement.

Mental health has always been a priority at Meden school and we continue to work hard to help our most vulnerable students and those in need of support. Mental Health Awareness Day on the 10th of October was a perfect reminder of the importance of being kind to ourselves and others. Staff now wear a yellow ribbon as a symbol of their commitment to the health and well being of their colleagues and students.

It is always great to celebrate the extracurricular achievements of our students. I am constantly amazed by the hard work and dedication they display to their out of school activities. I am proud to see that their high expectations and determination to succeed extend beyond their school career.

As this half term comes to a close, I would like to remind you that we have an additional days holiday at the end of the Christmas break, returning to school on Friday 7th January 2022. This is due to the Queen's Jubilee which falls within our June half term break.

Finally, thank you all for your continued support of your children and our school.

Have a great half term holiday!

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What has been happening in school this month?



Reading Canon At Meden, we believe students have the right to read, the right to explore a range of authors and contexts, and the right to strengthen their reading confidence. This year saw the launch of The Meden Canon Reading programme, a weekly reading strategy that supports strengthening students' reading confidence to enable them

to read fluently. Furthermore, the focus of the reading sessions is to encourage discussion and debates to support students' verbal contributions on a range of topics. The Meden Canon consists of a range of engaging, challenging and diverse genres that aim to develop students' cultural awareness within and beyond their own sense of self. It is the entitlement of every student at Meden to have read at least five books through the Meden Reading Canon programme by the end of Year 11. It has been fantastic to hear students engaging in conversations so far on classics such as Frankenstein and To Kill a Mockingbird, as well as Carnegie winners/ shortlists such as The Bone Sparrow. We are so proud of the enthusiasm shown and are raring to go with next term's talk topics on these texts!



Oracy Odyssey

As part of Oracy October, students in Years 7-9 have been taking part in a national event that encourages students to talk in a range of different contexts across all curriculum areas. Oracy was a highly prized skill in Ancient Greece. Ancient Greek scholars were expected to be able to speak convincingly on a range of different topics in a number of different settings, such as public forums, courtrooms and assemblies. This month, we are challenging students to follow in the footsteps of these famed Ancient Greek scholars by completing twelve oracy challenges between 11th and 22nd October. These challenges will empower students to become accomplished orators just like the scholars of Ancient Greece who worked hard to master the art of the spoken word. Competition is rife amongst students and their Heads of Year to be crowned orator of the month, so much so that we have had many creative and strategic entries from students so far. We cannot wait to find out which students and tutor group will win the oracy odyssey, and will reveal all next half-term.

Black History Month

At Meden School we have celebrated Black History Month in a number of ways. Firstly, students have discussed the impact of Black History Month during their Personal Development lessons this month. Their key question was 'Why is it important to celebrate Black History Month?', and our students came up with some brilliant responses such as 'black history has been ignored in the past and Black History Month can bring to a wider audience the contributions of black people to British history'. Within this lesson, students also considered why we should support Black History Month, with high quality debates around the numerous reasons why this should be the case.

Furthermore, as part of Black History Month, staff have encouraged discussions about key figures from black history and culture by having prominent displays of key black figures from history in their classrooms. This has encouraged debate amongst students and staff alike as to the importance of Black History Month and its role in our community. Finally, SLT have shared who their inspiring member of the black community is with staff and students when delivering key assemblies to different year groups.



PE News

Meden Leadership Academy

25 Year 9 Students have been selected to complete their Junior Sports Leaders award as an additional qualification within PE.

These students will be completing the qualification from October until December where they will then form part of the Meden Leadership Academy. The academy will then assist with all primary school transition events, open evenings, and extra-curricular clubs within these primary schools too.

The PE department are extremely proud of these students and wish them well in their qualification!

ME in PE Wellbeing Programme

The PE department at Meden recognise the importance of physical activity and sport for contributing to a healthy body and mind. As part of the CORE PE programme, students will be completing a ME in PE wellbeing session at the end of each term, designed to teach students how they can keep themselves fit and active outside of school. In each session, students will either take part in the Couch to 5KM NHS app (with the aim to complete it), or a Meden 5km Park Run where they will aim to beat their time each time.



PE Extra Curricular

The PE department have teamed up with Welbeck Cricket Club and Mansfield Town Football Club to offer all students with a free coaching session after school until December. Welbeck Cricket Club are in Monday nights until 4.10pm and Mansfield Town Football Coaches are in Thursday nights until 4.10pm.



Achievements



Record Breakers!

Last year our Year 7 students took part in a Royal Mail Stamp Competition to celebrate our keyworkers during the pandemic. More than 600,000 children submitted entries in to the competition from almost 7500 schools. For the competition children aged 4 to 14 were asked to think about who their heroes were and to design a stamp in their honour. Although none of our students made it to the final, they are part of the Guinness Book of World Records by contributing to the world's largest stamp design. The previous record set in 2013 was 239,374 entries.

Celebrating Amazing Attitude to Learning



Attitude to learning (ATL) is key, and at Meden School we are keen to celebrate all those students who work really hard and have the right ATL and we do this in several ways. Each week teachers from all subjects are asked to nominate someone who they feel has been their 'ATL Star of the Week'. In order to mark this achievement, a postcard is sent home to each student and this is celebrated on the website and our school Twitter site. Every half term students in each year group who have gained the most ATL points and also those who have improved the most are rewarded and celebrated in this way.

Congratulations to all of our ATL Stars!

Meden's Golden Tickets

The Golden Tickets have been met with much enthusiasm by both students and staff after being introduced this half term. Students showing outstanding Attitude to Learning (ATL) are awarded by staff with a golden ticket. By handing this in to their tutor, they are awarded 5 ATL points and entry in to the 'Golden Ticket Draw' for which there is a weekly prize and a bigger prize for each year group, at the end of the half term. Meden School has high expectations of its students and it is wonderful to see so many students being awarded for their hard work and dedication.

Well Done!

Gymnastics Medals

Erin Broughton in Y7 celebrated recently after bringing home 1 gold and 2 bronze medals in the Regional Gymnastics Championships. Erin, who has been a keen gymnast since the age of 4, is a member of the Notts Gymnastics Academy and represents them in the National Team. She gave an excellent performance in the championship, achieving Gold in her Floor Routine, Bronze on Beam and Bronze on the Vault. Erin is looking forward to competing in the Notts Open this weekend and we will keep you updated on her progress.



Tom Successfully Defends Archery Title



Tom Winterton in Year 10 achieved success this weekend after once again defending his National Archery Title. Despite the cold and wet weather, Tom headed to Durham on Friday straight from school to spend 2 full days shooting. It was all

worth it though, as Tom defended his title for the 5th time. Well done Tom!

Congratulations Freya Y9

Freya Percival proudly rides her horse at the SEIB Trailblazers Championship Finals 2021 that took place at the end of July, at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire. Freya, a keen horse rider, has been competing since the age of 6/7 years old. The perfect pair, Freya and 9 year old Gizmo performed excellently in all categories and went on to win the championship. Well Done!



Meden Christmas Concert

8th Dec 5-7pm at Warsop Church. Performances by the School Choir & Band to get us feeling christmassy. Everyone is welcome!

Achievements



Year 7 Enrichment

Students in year 7 have spent their first half term engaging in their enrichment activities.

They have fully participated in learning:

Italian, Public Speaking, Poetry Writing, Sport, Robot building, Short Plays and the Arts, Music, Cooking and being Eco-Friendly. Students are about to begin their second activity after half term, but we wanted to pay special tribute to how hard they have worked during the first half term and give thanks to those teachers who allowed the students to experience activities outside of the normal school day.

The purpose is to inspire our students to build new experiences, to make them inquisitive of the world around them, and we think that the enrichment programme is doing just that.



Competition Winner

Congratulations to Sophie Booth, a Y13 student at Meden College for winning 3rd prize in the Holodomor Essay Prize 2021 on the topic of the 1932 - 1933 Holodomor, the Ukrainian famine in which an estimated seven million Ukrainians died over a period of 18 months. Sophie, who studies History at A level was awarded a certificate and £100 prize money.

Sophie's essay and the 1st & 2nd prize winners' essays can be found using the following link: <https://www.augb.co.uk/holodomor-2021-essay-prize-results.php>

Coming up...

Road Safety

All year 7 and 8 students will be participating in a road safety campaign throughout November. As a school, we feel it is important that students are safe on the roads whether they walk or cycle to school. Therefore, we have asked for the support of VIA Eastmidlands LTD to educate our students on the dangers that roads pose to them.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind families that students who cycle to school are expected to wear a helmet for safety reasons.



Remembrance Parade

This year Meden School will be sending their representatives in the Student Leadership team to the Warsop Poppy Parade as a mark of respect. Students from all years will be present and will lay a wreath of Poppies on behalf of all Meden students and staff to say thank you to those who have fought in, and sadly lost their lives in conflict since World War 1.



Meden College Open Evening

Wednesday 10th November 6pm—8pm

Come along & see for yourself what Meden College can offer you!

Follow us on twitter@MedenCollege

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 numbers. 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.