



30 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families have had a lovely summer so far, and are able to enjoy the last weekend of the holidays. I thought it might be useful to share some key information with you to allow you and your children to prepare for the new academic year. All information has already been shared via our Friday email but I hope it is helpful for families to have it all in one place.

Congratulations to Year 11

We are all incredibly proud of our students at Millthorpe. They have achieved excellent results and we have been impressed by their dedication and relentless determination to succeed. They have remained positive, good humoured and supportive of each other throughout their GCSE years; they are a credit to our school and their families. I am very grateful to all of our parents who have supported and motivated their children to achieve the success they deserve, whatever that looks like for each individual. I would also like to publicly thank all the staff for their hard work in guiding and inspiring our students.

Teaching and Learning

Maximising learning time

We know that Millthorpe School is a complex site and that students sometimes take a few minutes to move between lessons. However, we are really keen to maximise learning time once students arrive at the classroom. Following consultation with staff and students, we have worked on a system to ensure that we do just that.

When we return in September, it will be explained to students exactly how we want them to begin their lessons. In summary, they will be greeted warmly and reminded to "[Go for Gold](#)", enter quickly and sensibly, take out their equipment and begin the first task immediately.

We will also remind students about leaving lessons correctly, making full use of the lesson time before packing their things away and leaving the classroom when invited to do so.

For the vast majority of students, they will be entering and leaving lessons as they always have done. There will simply be an increased focus on reminding them to "[Go for Gold](#)" to help everyone get the most out of lessons.

Timings of the School Day

To support this, we have added specified movement time between lessons and at the end of break and lunch to make sure all students have enough time to arrive to start the lesson promptly and calmly. Please remember students also need to be through the school gates by 8.40am to allow them to arrive ready to start Form Time at 8.45am. The full timings of the school day can be found here: <https://millthorpeschool.co.uk/school-day/>

Homework

Here is our Homework Policy; this is unchanged [Homework Policy 2024-26 - Information for Families.pdf](#)

Timetables

Students will be issued with new planners and their timetable on their first day back.

Culture

Uniform, Jewellery and equipment

We want to focus entirely on welcoming our students back into the building and getting them excited about learning. To allow this to happen, we ask that students arrive with all the required equipment and in the correct uniform right from the first day of the academic year. Please see our website for [details of our uniform and equipment required](#), and information about the [eco laundry](#).

Students now have the opportunity to purchase equipment such as pens and pencils before school at the school gates (front and back). Any purchases will be added to Parent Pay.

We recognise that students may occasionally misplace a tie or forget a pen. We have therefore built into Class Charts a system that only issues a sanction if students repeatedly (three times) have incorrect uniform or equipment.

Please remember that we have a no nose piercing policy. Students will not be allowed into lessons if they refuse to wear a plastic retainer that we can provide if needed (we don't accept plaster coverings).

Class Charts

As you are hopefully aware, Class Charts will become the new home for all our Behaviour and Attitudes information this September. It's vital we have all parents signed up to the platform and logging in regularly to see the live praise come through! We hope this allows parents to have lovely dinner table conversations about the learning and positive behaviour that's taken place that day. If you haven't logged in yet, please refer back to a letter sent out by us before the summer holidays. It contains a unique parents access code required when you visit this link <https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

Class Charts will email parents automatically when a sanction has been added. Parents will also find a short reason attached to the sanction which we ask you to discuss that evening. We hope this additional information will help families have meaningful conversations with their children.

Lunchtime football on the astro

We look forward to welcoming students back to the astro from Wednesday 3 September. Please note the rota and safety rules below:

MONDAY	Y11 BOYS	Y10 BOYS	Y7 BOYS
TUESDAY	Y9 BOYS	Y8 BOYS	ALL YEARS GIRLS
WEDNESDAY	Y11 BOYS	Y10 BOYS	Y7 BOYS
THURSDAY	Y9 BOYS	Y8 BOYS	ALL YEARS GIRLS
FRIDAY WEEK A	Y11 BOYS	Y10 BOYS	Y7 BOYS
FRIDAY WEEK B	Y9 BOYS	Y8 BOYS	ALL YEARS GIRLS

Astro safety rules

- **Appropriate football boots** (see the sign at the entrance to the astro)
- No bags on the astro
- No sliding tackles
- Aggressive / Inappropriate play will result in students being removed from the astro
- Removal could be anything from a 2 mins timeout to permanent removal
- Play with a smile on your face!

Attendance

Once again this year we saw our Y11s perform incredibly well in their GCSE exams. Analysis clearly shows us that students with strong attendance achieve higher grades, whatever their starting point.

The key to excellent attendance is clearly rooted in developing outstanding habits in term 1. Schools Commissioners research showed *'children who had an unauthorised absence on any day during the first week of term had an average term-level unauthorised absence rate of 25% compared to an unauthorised absence rate of 2% for pupils who didn't miss any sessions in the first week.'*

We are very excited to welcome all of our Millthorpe students back to school. Please remember we welcome Year 7s only (staff will be out and about to support students to find their way to Main Hall) on Tuesday 3rd September and then welcome all students back on Wednesday 4th September.

We're all looking forward to seeing all of our students again at the start of what will no doubt be another exciting and successful year at Millthorpe.

Kind regards

Ms K Rothenburg
Acting Principal