

Date 6th October 2025

## Term One Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a positive start to the term and students new to the college are settling in well. We had our Freshers Fair last week and many students got involved which was wonderful to see.

In my regular walks around the college, I am seeing so many young people actively engaging in their studies and taking advantage of the extensive enrichment offer we have in place at the college. In celebration of **Black History Month**, students are also joining the enrichment team at lunchtime in the canteen for activities, discussions, and creative sessions honouring the legends and legacies that inspire us all.

I would also like to ask your support with making sure that your young person attends all their classes as shown on their timetable. You can check their daily and weekly attendance via Pro Portal, details of which can be found on our website <https://stcg.ac.uk/merton-college/parent/proportal-for-parents-attendance-comments-and-reports>

We will continue to provide you with weekly letters showing their attendance. Studies show that every missed college day is linked to a £750 loss in future earnings and a 60% reduced likelihood of staying in sustained employment for 12 months. Poor attendance leads to lower educational attainment, fewer transferable skills like teamwork and problem-solving, decreased motivation, and a higher likelihood of long-term unemployment or reliance on benefits.

I realise that sometimes students will on occasion be absent for significant personal reasons and want you to know that we can support you and your young person. They can self-refer to student services for support. You can find further information on the parent's page of the website at <https://stcg.ac.uk/merton-college/parent/student-services>

We also recognise that some students prefer to be onsite to study on days when they do not have any timetabled classes. We will continue to facilitate this, students who come to college on non-timetabled days will be expected to work in the college library.

Our Business and IT students and staff will be taking on a 5 mile walk this Thursday to raise awareness for Hello Yellow in support of Young Minds for World Mental Health Day. If you are able to make a small donation to support the students you can donate at <https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/s/428/428> I hope you will join me in wishing them well as they take on this challenge and acknowledge that we all stand brighter, when we do things together.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Muncie  
Principal - Merton College