



marches school

Issue 1

Friday 9th September 2016



MARCHES WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Busy Summer

The summer break has been a busy one with lots of moves around the site and two further classrooms coming online in the Arthur Walpole Building. We now have a second quiet study space for the growing Sixth Form where students can bring their own electronic devices and connect to the internet to study. Main school has been enhanced with a new meeting room and students' work space for the Pastoral team. We have taken advantage of there being no students in the building to resurface the hall floor, service the raised seating, as well as maintenance and the deep-cleaning of all areas of the school.

Strong Exam Results

Exam results days and preparation for these have also kept us busy. A Level results on the 18th August gave us our second year group who are now preparing for universities across the country; there were many great results with students being accepted for their chosen courses, including our first student gaining a place at Cambridge University to study Engineering.

A week later, GCSE results were in and we are delighted to see that the students have done well against the new tougher and broader Government measure of Progress 8 which focuses on a set of 8 subjects including English and Maths and measures how well students perform against their levels in Year 6. A record number of students have been able to be accepted into the Sixth Form and both the school and NSC were available to offer advice and guidance for the full range of pathways available to students. If you are aware of students who still need support in this area, Shropshire Youth, the careers advisory service, are based at The Centre on Oak Street. There is still time for students to enrol on both A Level and other courses.

The Term Begins

Students are now back into the pattern of school and are looking extremely smart; we thank you for your support in ensuring that uniform is kept to a high standard as it benchmarks all other aspects of the school and sets the right ethos in the school – one of those being focused on learning.

We are looking forward to a year full of opportunities for travel, house competitions to get involved in, exciting special curriculum days, after-school activities as well as great learning day-to-day.

Students all need a **fiction** reading book every day in school, at the right level to develop their literacy skills. If you would like support to ensure your child is reading the correct book please contact your child's English teacher who can help. Reading ages from the latest assessments should be on your child's English book in the next few weeks and we will soon be launching our new library software that will allow books to be reserved from home.

Students will soon be having an equipment check in tutor time; please ensure they are fully equipped with pens, pencils, a ruler, rubber, protractor, compass and scientific calculator. This check will remove time wasted in lessons when these essentials are missing.

Welcome to Year 7

Year 7 commenced their term a day before the rest of school and clearly benefitted from the quieter start to find their feet. Pastoral support is in place to ensure all the group are happy and confident in coming to school. Your child's tutor is the first point of contact if you have any worries, no matter how small; good communication is essential and our tutor team are here to support.

Mrs A Pearson, Associate Headteacher

Bonington - 804 Mallory - 886 Whittaker - 623 Hargreaves - 921 Stephens - 775

Reminders

If for any reason your child loses a letter, letters can be downloaded and viewed on the Parent & Student section of the School Website under Letters. If your child is absent for any reason, please let us know by 8:30 a.m. Call the School on 01691 664400 and choose option 1. Please leave your child's name, form, house and reason for absence.

Autumn Term 2016

Tuesday 6th September – Friday 16th December

Half Term: Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October

Christmas Holidays: Monday 19th December – Friday 30th December

PD Day: Friday 21st October

English Department: Key Terminology

All students (Years 8 - 11) have been emailed a list of key terms that have become essential for the new English curriculum at Key Stage 3, and the new-styled **GCSE English Language and English Literature qualifications**. We asked students to learn these in preparation for the work that they will be doing in English from September.

We would greatly appreciate your support in helping your child to learn the definition and spelling of these key terms, throughout the year, to improve their overall confidence and marks in their English work as these will be needed to be used in all English exams.

Please see the Literacy Terms document attached to this email.

If you require any further support or resources to help your child, please explore the Literacy section on the school website or contact the English Department.

Morocco Expedition

Our team of students and staff arrived back safely from their amazing experience on their Morocco expedition which took place in the first two weeks of the summer holiday. The team have seen a very different life from the one at home. We hope to be able to begin planning for a new expedition soon. Over the course of the 15 days each group managed to reach the summit of Mount Toubkal which, at 4,167 metres, is the highest peak in the Atlas Mountains and in North Africa. Students also contributed to the Asni community project where they implemented an irrigation system to minimise soil erosion. Further to this, the group visited the Ouzoud Falls, met and spent time with pupils of a local school which is provided by the Tiwizi Association, took in culture at the Toubkal National Park Museum and enjoyed the sights, sounds and smells of a Moroccan market. Trip organiser, Ms Griffiths, commented, "This is the second expedition which follows the success of Romania two years ago and is a remarkable experience for our students. The skills the students develop in taking control over everything whilst away are lifetime opportunities. I am very proud of our students; they have shown maturity and compassion to each other and the local communities we worked with as well as great determination in summiting Toubkal! This was an awesome experience where we met wonderful, friendly people".

More pictures are available to view [here](#).



MARCHES SCHOOL

extensive enrichment programme

strong student support system

academic focus

superb facilities

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marches school



We support students, of all abilities and levels, to achieve their very best.

OPEN EVENING
Thursday 22nd September

We are a forward-thinking, innovative school, which puts our students at the centre of everything we do. We are a consistently high performing school for both GCSE and A Level study.

T: 01691 664400

W: www.marchesschool.co.uk

E: admin@marchesschool.net

The Marches School, Morda Road, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2AR

New Homework system - MILK

Parent guidance should have reached you to help you with this new system, but is also available [here](#). We will also be running support sessions soon for this tool that allows you to see all homework set for your child, with your own log in. We would love to receive any feedback about the system as you see it develop. Please email your thoughts to Mr Garratt, lead for the scheme at garratt.c@marchesschool.net.

Year 12 Parent Event

On Monday 19th September there is the opportunity to meet the Sixth Form Leadership team where you will be able to ask questions. You will be able to find out how you can support your child during their A Level studies with greater awareness, knowledge and understanding. This will take place from 6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. in the main school hall. Refreshments will be available.

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