



marches school

Issue 1

Friday 7th September 2018



MARCHES WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome

It has been great to welcome back all students this week. We have continued where we began in July with our Year 7's who will be our class of 2023! They look the part in their smart uniforms, ready to learn.

I have just held our first whole school assembly of the year and all year groups were impeccable in the way they entered, listened and supported the two students who played the piano. Our Year 11 Leadership Group sat along the front setting the tone and are indeed great ambassadors of the school. Today we discussed the stickers that students will be adding to the front of every subject book with their GCSE grades – there is the minimum grade, a good grade and an exceptional grade, and we discussed the importance of aiming for beyond the minimum.

Our exam results have led to our largest ever cohort of students joining the Sixth Form – with us reaching 100 for the first time.

It can be a challenge for parents and carers to remember all the systems we run in school. The MILK homework app is an app which all parents and carers should have to help them stay in touch with announcements and homework. For information such as how to rent a locker, how to pay for lunch or trips on parent pay, understanding yellow box marking and how you can support your child's learning, you can find everything you need on our website and in our new updated Parent Guide found [here](#), with all the links you need to key guidance to support your child at the school. If you would like a paper version of this guide, please ask at reception.

Driving onto site – a reminder

There is no capacity for parents to drive onto site, or to park on site at the start and end of the day as the route must be accessible to emergency services at all times. Please organise with your child where you will collect them away from the school site. No pick-up is available outside main reception at 3.00 p.m. If you feel your child is unable to walk to a meeting point away from the school, please speak to our Business Manager, Mrs Jones jones.j@mmat.co.uk to discuss how we may meet their needs.

Reading School

Reading school has made a huge difference to the reading scores of students last year. Please ensure your child has a **fiction reading book** every day in school, at the right level in order 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.

Equipment checks

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

Mrs A Pearson, Associate Headteacher

Exam Results

Once again, the Marches School are celebrating a 100 percent pass rate for their A Level Sixth Form students.

Finley Hudson achieved 4 A* grades at A Level, securing a highly competitive place at the Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology. Lord Dyson wrote to us and explained that Finley had been chosen due to his "passion, intellect and tenacity".



Sam West, George Garratt and Tom Evans matched Finley's grades by achieving straight A*s and will follow a traditional route by attending the country's top universities, and studying English Literature, Medicine and Chemistry.

A week later, Marches students celebrated success in the new, more challenging GCSE examinations.

Top grades were at a high level, resulting in a record number of students being offered places in Sixth Form.



Of the students who chose to take separate Sciences, in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, 100 percent of students achieved a pass. In addition, student performance in the academic English Baccalaureate is again strong. We are also delighted to continue to close the gap on grades between disadvantaged students and other students.

Open Evening

The Marches School Open Evening takes place on Thursday 20th September.

The evening is aimed at Year 5 and 6 pupils, who are seeking September 2019 or 2020 entry, but all are welcome to attend. The evening will answer any questions parents and carers have on transition and uniform, as well as having a tour around the site and seeing individual departments and teachers.



Morocco Trip

Staff and students had a successful and enjoyable trip to various parts of Morocco during the first two weeks of the summer holidays.

They travelled to Marrakech, before trekking to Jebel Toubkal which is the highest peak in North Africa, then travelling to Aroumd, exploring Essaouira before travelling back to Marrakech.



Trips

We pride ourselves on the amazing opportunities our students are offered to travel abroad to experience new cultures, broaden their horizons and raise aspirations.

As well as the highly anticipated New York trip for Year 11 during October half-term, the Spanish exchange during February half-term and the ski trip to Austria also during February half-term, the following trips have also been approved and are set to be launched in the next few weeks:

- **London Christmas experience** – a short overnight trip for students see the sights of London and get some Christmas shopping done.
- **A German trip** – aimed at Years 9 to 12 students with an interest in History and German language and culture.
- **A Spanish Trip** – the classical tour of Andalucía at Easter, staying in Benalmádena and visiting world heritage sites such as the Alhambra palace in Granada and La Mezquita in Córdoba. This trip is aimed at students of Spanish in Years 8, 9 and 10.
- **Auschwitz Trip** – a trip giving students the opportunity to experience a fascinating and solemn visit to one of the most significant sites of the Holocaust.
- In May half term, we are hoping to take as many of the Year 7's who wish to take part to the **Opal Coast in Northern France** for four days and three nights.
- There is also a trip planned to the **Battlefields of Northern France** for historians.

We have also been successful in our application for ERASMUS+ funding to work on a two-year project with a group of schools from Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Holland and Spain. It means we will be able to offer students the chance to visit these countries for a five-day, four-night visit over the next two years, completely free of charge!

Finally, following the success of this summer's expedition to Morocco, we will soon be deciding upon the destination for our next expedition in 2020.

For further information about any of these trips, please do email Emma Swindley, our Enrichment Officer, swindley.e@mmat.co.uk

Mr Brookes, Associate Assistant Headteacher

Universal Credit

The local authority has asked us to pass on this information in regards to Universal Credit.

Claiming Universal Credit or just about to make a claim?

Need help to manage online?

Universal Credit is an online benefit which means you need to claim online and tell the Jobcentre about any changes online. You might also need to upload information to support your claim and check regularly for messages and tasks that you need to carry out.

Please – don't leave it until it's too late, if you need help to claim Universal Credit or to manage things online call us on 0345 678 9078 and ask about assisted digital support available through our main libraries at Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Ludlow, Bridgnorth, Market Drayton and Whitchurch.

We will be able to help you with things like:

- Accessing the internet using your own device or one in the library.
- Setting up and using an email account, registering yourself with Universal Credit so that you can make a claim and helping you through the claim and verification process.
- Helping a partner to access the claim to add their information.
- Navigating and updating online, 'to do' lists, and Journal entries sent by Universal Credit and making journal entries to keep the Jobcentre up to date.
- Notifying changes of circumstances and generating enquiries

This is a free service funded by the Department for Work & Pensions:



Claiming Universal Credit or just about to make a claim?

Worried about managing your money?

Will you be able to manage with a monthly Universal Credit payment, how about keeping up with the bills and having to pay the rent yourself from your money?

Please – don't leave it until it's too late, if you need help to manage your money call us on 0345 678 9078 and ask about personal budgeting support.

If you are claiming Universal Credit and need help to set up and manage a budget then you will be able to see a trained Citizen's Advice worker who can help you to:

- Work out your monthly income and outgoings and help you complete and maintain a monthly budgeting plan.
- Recognise and deal with priority bills, like rent and help you identify and cut back on non-essentials.
- Help you convert from Post Office card account to a bank account for your money so that so that you can use it to manage your bills.
- Help you understand and advise you on alternative payment arrangements for your Universal Credit that might help you in the meantime.

This is a free service funded by the Department for Work & Pensions:



Shropshire can UC?

Working age? Then you need to know about Universal Credit. It's coming in 2018.

Starting in 2018 anyone having to make a new claim for Income Support or the income based Jobseeker's or Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit or Tax Credits may need to claim Universal Credit (UC). You should still claim any contribution based benefits.

Universal Credit includes the money to pay your rent, it won't come separately from your Council and you will need to pay your landlord.

When you claim, the first payment of UC is made after 5 weeks.

Keep your tenancy safe, follow these hints and tips

Have your rent agreement with you when you go to your new claim interview. If you don't, your money won't include help with rent.

If you rent from a Housing Association talk to them. They will help you to get ready for Universal Credit.

Make rent a priority: set a budget, put your rent money on one side. Can you pay a bit of rent now to get into credit? Can you set up a separate account for rent? Find out more about 'tam pa' accounts from a credit union.

Get help if you get in arrears: Talk to your landlord, can you come to some agreement? Get help with debt from Citizen's Advice or by calling the National Debtline on 0800 808 4000.

Jobcentre Plus might help: You can get an advance of benefit when you claim and pay it back from benefits later, don't forget to pay your rent from it. They might be able to pay your landlord directly as temporary help.

Can you get a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)? DHP's can't help everyone but if you don't get full help with your rent then you may qualify. Shropshire Council deal with these. Call 0345 678 9078.

If you want to know more about Universal Credit: check out the information on the Money Advice Website at: <https://www.moneyadvice.org.uk/en/articles/universal-credit-an-introduction> or you could phone the Universal Credit helpline on 0800 328 5444 or 1800 328 9344.

Your library has computers and they have a list of other places to get online.

If this was useful – pass it on!

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2018

Tuesday 4th September to Friday 21st December

Half term: Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November

PD Day: Friday 26th October

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January to Friday 12th April

Half term: Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February

PD Days: Friday 15th February, Monday 25th February

Summer Term 2019

Monday 29th April to Friday 19th July

Half term: Monday 27th to Friday 31st May

PD Day: Monday 22nd July

Term dates for the academic year 2019 – 2020 can be found online [here](#).

Bonington – 211

Mallory – 253

Whittaker – 254

Hargreaves – 272

Stephens - 294

The Marches School

Morda Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 2AR