

**The Marches School**  
part of the Marches Academy Trust  
Morda Road, Oswestry  
Shropshire SY11 2AR

T. 01691 664400  
E. marchesadmin@mmat.co.uk  
W. www.marchesschool.co.uk

**Associate Headteacher:** Alison Pearson BSc, MA, NPQH



September 2018

**Reference: SJ**

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **Exam Class of 2021**

Welcome back to another action packed year at The Marches School. I hope that the students have had a good summer break. As you will see from the dates included within this letter, there are lots of opportunities this year.

Year 9 is an incredibly important year, as students make their Option choices ready for September 2020 and the start of Year 10. In addition to this in many subjects, students will be starting their GCSE work, with the first exam, English Literature, just 20 months away.

As ever, we continue to have extremely high expectations in terms of uniform and behaviour and ask for your support in this too. Your child will now have a new planner and I ask that you take time to read through the expectations at the front and sign the Home/ School agreements which include the ICT policies which you will find on pages 8 to 13. Your child's tutor will be checking their uniform and their equipment regularly, to ensure students are thoroughly prepared to take an active role in lessons.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of our phone policy for students. Whilst phones are permitted in school, responsibility for it rests with the student and the school will take no financial responsibility for loss or damage. Phones are not to be visible at any time between the hours of 8.30am and 3pm, unless a member of staff expressly ask the student(s) to get their phone out to use in a lesson. Phones should be kept in the student's bag and turned off. If the students phone is visible (this includes being seen in pockets) then the phone will be confiscated. A parent can collect the phone on that day before 4pm or the student may come with a note from home on the next working day to collect their phone at 3pm. Full details of this can also be found in your child's planner.

I am extremely proud of how the year group progressed through Key stage 3 and I am looking forward with great enthusiasm to another great year. An absolute key to this success will be a positive working relationship between the school and home and I hope we can count on your continued support.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some important upcoming dates for this year. You can also refer to our website for a more detailed calendar of events.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Details</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 9 individual photographs
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 8/9 Parent Event
26 <sup>th</sup> October	PD Day – school closed
<b>29<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b>	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 9 exams (non-core subjects)
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 9 Formal Options Process begins
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Options and Parents Evening
15 <sup>th</sup> February	PD Day – school closed
<b>18<sup>th</sup> February – 25<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> February	PD day – school closed
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Formal Options Process closes
<b>15<sup>th</sup> April – 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> April – 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 9 CORE subject exams
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – School closed
18 <sup>th</sup> May – 19 May	D of E Bronze Expedition Year 9
<b>27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>19<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>End of Term</b>

Yours sincerely,

*S James*

Ms S James  
 Progress Leader Year 9  
 The Marches School