

Dear Parents/Carers,

We welcomed all of our students back to school this week, and they are looking smart and have a good attitude, I have enjoyed speaking with many of them in the corridors about their break and in their classrooms about their learning.

You may be aware that our Year 7 and 8 students sent Christmas cards to residents of a local care home this year, and in return we received a New Year's card from a resident, Herb.

Herb was so touched by the students, he wrote to thank them and "their wonderful idea". "I can assure you from myself it is great to know that young people think about older people."

If you are visiting the main reception soon – please look out for Herb's card on our Values board.

Online Safety - National data states that:

81% of parents of children aged 12-17 think they know what their child does online.

However – 33% of children aged 12-17 claim their parents do not know what they do online.

56% of parents whose child has received nasty or hurtful messages online are not aware of this.

Our local police have alerted us to a snapchat group called "Ostown Sweats", a group they describe as a tool for bullying, false information and threats, which a number of our students have signed up to.

The police have rightly received complaints and are acting on these **Hate Crimes**. They request that young people remove themselves from the site.

We have shared this news and explored what Hate Crimes are, and also kindness in this week's whole school assembly and now share this with you to allow you to discuss this concerning matter with your child at home.

Mrs A Pearson
Headteacher



REMINDERS & NOTICES

Uniform and Equipment

With the commencement of the new term, please can all students be reminded of our uniform standards.

Full uniform information can be found on our website by [clicking here](#).

In particular, we would like to remind you that:

- Hair is to be no shorter than a grade 2.
- No false nails or nail polish.
- No false eye lashes or unnatural eyebrows.
- Only one plain stud per ear - no other piercings allowed.
- Correct shoes as per our online information.
- Correct skirt/trousers as per our online information.

Please can all students also be reminded that they need the full equipment items, more information is detailed in the student planner.

Thank you for your support.

LGBT Youth Event

Date: 29th February 2020, 2:00pm - 5:00pm. Venue: The Hive, Five Belmont, Shrewsbury, SY1 1TE
To book [click here](#).

This free event provides an opportunity for LGBT young people, their friends, allies and supporters to express their views, feelings, understanding and experience. It provides an opportunity for schools, professionals, teachers and members of the LGBT community, allies and supporters to come together to learn from young people, explore and celebrate Shropshire good practice and consider ways forward. It will be hosted by young people from Shropshire Youth Association XYZ group, with Alice Cruttwell, Public Health Curriculum Advisor. This will be the fourth consecutive year for this successful and joyous event. Following tradition there will be cake, music, art and discussion - all attending will go away with information, ideas and inspiration.



Coats Needed – Can You Help?

Last half-term, Year 9 were exploring the theme of 'kindness'. To develop this, we are asking parents, students and members of the community to support us in our 'coats at winter drive'. It is already cold and the winter is only going to get worse, therefore we are asking for donations of coats; old, new and all shapes and sizes, from babies to adults. We will then be holding some events in Oswestry (details to follow), where the community can come and get a coat if needed – no questions asked! Any remaining coats will be sent to a local charity. So if you are having a New Year clear out, please think about supporting us. Charity is not just about how much money we can raise, but also about the difference we can make. All coats can be dropped off with the Science department, Mrs Newey or in the School Main Reception. Thank you for your support.
~ Mrs Newey and the Year 9 Team.

Barcelona Trip

A place has become available on the Barcelona Trip in February half-term. If you are interested, please contact Miss Weetman for a letter at: Weetman.p@mmat.co.uk.

Trust Newsletter

The Marches Academy Trust Winter Newsletter has been published. If you have not had a chance to read it yet, the Newsletter highlights the Cross-Trust activities that students participate in and is available to view by [clicking here](#).

SPORT FIXTURES



Week of 13th to 17th January 2020

Wednesday 15th January

- Primary Basketball Tournament, 12:00pm - 12:30pm.
- U19 Girls' Netball vs Ellesmere College, at The Marches, 3:15pm start.
- KS3 Badminton (School Games), at Sport Village, 1:00pm start.

Thursday 16th January

- KS4 Badminton (School Games), at Sport Village, 1:00pm start.

CAREERS



Please keep an eye on the careers page of our website by [clicking here](#). It is frequently updated with career advice, the latest apprenticeship opportunities in the area and helpful resources.

If your child would like to make a careers appointment, they should please contact Mrs Murphy, Careers Guidance and Inspiration Officer on: murphy.m@mmat.co.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Click here](#) to view our upcoming events.



- Year 11 Parents/Carers are invited into school on Thursday 16th January for our Year 11 Resilience Evening Event. Presentation to start 6:00pm in the Main Hall, finishing at 7:30pm. For more information, please [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to view our term dates.

EXAM SUPPORT

Tip Number 9 in our parent exam support series:



NEWS



[Click here](#) to view what our students have been taking part in recently.

A few highlights include:

- Year 11 Presidents' Shield.
- BT Work Experience Collaboration.
- Festive Fun Run.
- Winter Watch Parade.
- The Marches Academy Trust Varsity.

