

Dear Parents and Carers,

### School Closure – For all but children of key workers and some defined groups

As you will be aware, the school has been instructed to close from 3pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March for an undetermined length of time for all but the children of key workers and some defined groups. I am awaiting further government and Department for Education guidance on what this means. To assist with planning, it would be a great help if you could complete the [survey](#) by **1pm today (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March)**.

We understand that this will be distressing for students and families, not least our exam groups. We will do all we can to keep you updated on any change in instructions or clarification regarding GCSE and A Level grades and cannot speculate at this time based on the limited information available. We do know that examinations will not be taken this summer and we will do all in our power to ensure that students are rewarded fairly, to reflect their hard work.

### How we will keep learning from home

- All students have a school email account and should be viewing their emails daily.
- Students already have a booklet of paper resources from each subject.
- All students should follow their normal timetable at home, by logging into Office 365 and joining their lesson through their class Team at the start time for each class.

Teachers will be providing work through the Team and using the "Post" facility to communicate with the students. The normal expected standards of conduct will be expected of students engaging with teachers.

Where practicable, teachers will endeavour to give feedback in line with our school assessment policy; some work set will be research or self-marked tasks, with some needing uploading for a teacher assessment.

Students should check their **email** each morning to see the list of staff unable to be in their lesson Team – however work will still be set as cover within the Team where this is the case. All other staff will be able to join their classes via Teams for their lessons.

### Home learning: How to access Office 365

We have received a few queries this week regarding how students who are home learning can access Office 365 in order to view their set work. Details of this, with step by step instructions can be found on our website by [clicking here](#).

### Students in receipt of free school meals

The government announced a voucher scheme on Wednesday, as details of this scheme are released, we will be in touch with all families in receipt of free school meals with details of how to access vouchers.

We understand that this letter may raise questions – please direct these to [marchesadmin@mmat.co.uk](mailto:marchesadmin@mmat.co.uk) and we will respond in line with our communication guidance.

Thank you for your understanding and support at this unprecedented time.

*Mrs A Pearson*  
**Headteacher**



## REMINDERS & NOTICES

### Student Spotlight

Congratulations to Marches student Lily Waring, who as a member of the Deeside Synchronized Skating Club, is not only a reigning British Champion in Ice Skating, but has now competed and won two international competitions! Following Lily's selection to represent Wales and GBR and compete in the last two internationals of the season, she is now a gold medallist in the Trophy d'Ecosse and Steel City Trophy after competing against other skaters from Russia, Australia, Italy, Belgium and France. This is an outstanding achievement and we are incredibly proud of what Lily has accomplished through her talent and hard work!



### Greece Expedition Training

Ahead of the Outlook Expeditions Trip to Greece, two of the three groups travelled to Worcester for a training weekend. The training focussed on developing kayaking skills, which the students will need during their expedition; it was also an opportunity to camp and cook in the teams that the students will be travelling in and to spend more time getting to know their expedition leaders.



### Food Bank Donations

Year 9 have been running a food bank collection this week, in which we encouraged students, staff, parents and the local community to get involved. Thank you to everyone who contributed with their generous donations. We are sure the food bank and local community will really appreciate the gesture at this challenging time.

Food banks are designed to provide short-term, emergency support with food. Their aim is to relieve the immediate pressure by providing food, while also providing additional support to help people. [Click here](#) to find your nearest food bank.



## Community

### Singing for Science

Last year, Mr Collier started a YouTube channel of songs to help teach the students AQA GCSE Science content through singing. The Science Department use this to support their lessons and as a revision tool. The students really enjoy this fun and helpful resource. Please [click here](#) to be directed to the 'Singing for Science' channel.

### Message from RAM Leisure

Further to Government announcements this week, we have decided to close our shop to members of the public after Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. We will continue to complete school uniform orders via our website: [ourschoolwear.co.uk](http://ourschoolwear.co.uk). If you have any enquiries or school orders (e.g. leavers/trip hoodies), please contact us via email or telephone. By taking these actions, we are confident that all efforts have been made to present a safe environment as we possibly can for staff. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.



## 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. Mrs Murphy, our Careers Adviser, will be available for remote career guidance during the school closure should your child have any career or work experience related questions or concerns. She will be sending out useful articles and will be in touch with Colleges and Sixth Forms to keep abreast of developments relating to admissions. She can be contacted by email at: [murphy.m@mmat.co.uk](mailto:murphy.m@mmat.co.uk)



## USEFUL CONTACTS

<b>Shropshire Public Health Nursing Service</b>	0333 358 3654
<b>Compass</b>	0345 678 9021
<b>Early Help</b>	<a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/">https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/</a>
<b>Parenting Team</b>	01743 250950
<b>SEND Local Offer</b>	<a href="https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/">https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/</a>

## NEWS

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



- A few highlights include:
- Year 8 create alebrjje creatures.
    - German Exchange.
    - Chill Factore Ski Trip.
  - New Sports Equipment for The Marches School.

