

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds all parents, carers and students safe and well. We continue to be physically open for key worker families and thank you for your support in keeping your child at home if this is possible, as that is the preferred status from the Government.

Our key worker support will also be in place over the full two weeks of Easter – Monday to Friday, thanks to staff volunteers. We are very fortunate to have so many staff willing to support this important role for our parents and carers on the front line.

Full Office Suite available for all families now

We continue to provide learning for students through Office 365 Teams and all families may now download all Microsoft Office products on up to 5 devices at home through your child's Office 365 login. These licences last for the time your child is with us. Teams and all other products work best on the app, with increased functionality over their use on the internet, so please do download if your device has the memory available.

Lessons continue online

Thank you to all families who have taken the time to email in with feedback on how learning is continuing. The main theme seems to be the value students are placing on keeping to the routines of following their normal timetable.

Staff have been sharing some great examples of students working independently and collaboratively helping each other, as well as showing their initiative in doing positive things for others, and even a video of lambing, with the promise from that student of catching up on lessons that night. Please keep them coming, it brightens the days of staff working alone at home and keeps us connected with our students – something we value.

Teachers, whether in school or at home, will keep providing learning via 365 Teams for as long as the current situation continues. Students should be following their timetable next week and then again after the Easter break.

Contacting the school

Our main reception is now closed, however we are still available with phone calls and emails being monitored. If you need to get in touch with school, please use email as the preferred method and we will respond to you in line with our communication policy, which can be found on the website.

Mrs A Pearson
Headteacher



NOTICES

PE dance along

On Monday, our Year 9 students were asked to copy the PE staff doing a TikTok inspired Dance as part of their PE lesson! [Click here](#) to view some of the examples sent in! Well done to all for your enthusiasm.



Shropshire Champions

We have some good news to share - the Under 13 Oswestry Olympians Indoor Athletics Girls' Team are Shropshire Champions! Pictured is Shannon Wilson, missing from the photo but part of the team is Jess Steel, Libby Williams and Elen Gray. Well done girls!



National Online Safety

The organisation, National Online Safety, have published free online safety guides for parents and children.

Remote learning is a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in these difficult circumstances. However, there are factors that need to be taken into consideration.

The guides below will help you get the most out of the remote learning experience. Please click the following to view:

- [Parent guide.](#)
- [Student guide.](#)



Keeping calm during difficulty

Feeling a certain amount of concern or worry is natural when we encounter difficult or unsettling times. [Click here](#) to view a video demonstrating an introduction to mindfulness. It explains how mindfulness can help rewire the brain to work in calmer and more positive ways. You can also listen to this guided [audio clip](#) alongside it, and take a look at this mindfulness [PDF](#) as supplementary resources.



Free school meals scam

The Department for Education have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'. This is a scam email – it is not from a local authority. Please do not respond to it, and delete it immediately. Read the government guidance [here](#) which explains what schools should do to make sure eligible students have continued access to free school meals.

Rainbow

Our children in school this week have joined in with the rainbow trend to spread some cheer. Their great work is on display for passers-by to enjoy.



Online Safety

As many of you are using the internet and online resources for home schooling, we wanted to share this website with you, [click here](#). Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

GCSE and A Level – What we know now

As soon as we are able to share more and accurate information, we will do so.

- Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
 - To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.
 - Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.
 - The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
 - These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- The exam boards will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students are not disadvantaged.
 - Students will be able to appeal their grades if they do not believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.

CAREERS



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



USEFUL CONTACTS

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

WEBSITE QUICK LINKS



Please click on the following useful links to find out more.

- [News.](#)
- [Home Learning.](#)
- [Term Dates.](#)



FACEBOOK

Please follow us on Facebook @[MarchesSchool](#) for supplementary home learning ideas, news and feel good stories. We also encourage you to share your ideas and interact with our posts!

For news from across the Trust, why not also follow @[MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

