

### Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware that the government has asked secondary schools to provide some face-to-face time with Year 10 and Year 12 students to support their online learning.

We are now working hard on the logistics and safety systems that will need to be in place in order for this to happen, focusing on this opportunity to get all students up to a level to make best progress in September, whilst being mindful that any plan must have a clear aim for what we want to achieve; something which builds on what we have and does not detract significantly from the online learning of all year groups.

Part of this planning is a whole scale de-clutter of classrooms to allow for a deep clean over the half-term. Staff will be coming in on set days to work on their rooms, and therefore, departments on particular days will not be able to set work and be in online classes. Teachers will alert their students on the day where this is the case.

Please bear with us at this time of significant challenge – one we aim to meet.

I understand that some parents and carers may be concerned about their child joining class-based learning in June.

Next week we will be as transparent as possible with our plan, which will include a video showing families what the system will be. We will share the scope of the different sessions as well as our risk assessment, and with this information, we will then ask you to respond to an online questionnaire to tell us if you wish your child to take up this opportunity. We hope that you will, but also understand that for many reasons some of you will not, and we respect that view. The government has stated that no family will be pursued for attendance at this time.

Families not taking up our offer initially, will have full open access at any time in the future weeks if their decision changes.

School remains open, as it has from day one, and we can be contacted on the school phone and also by emailing: [marchesadmin@mmat.co.uk](mailto:marchesadmin@mmat.co.uk)

**Half-term** - please be advised that the school will be closed for all students over the May half-term. This includes emergency childcare for children of key workers.

*Mrs A Pearson*  
**Headteacher**



## NOTICES

### Parent/Carer Survey

We really value your feedback and feel we have been working well with our students, so we are hoping you can spare 5 minutes to complete the attached survey. Please click [here to take part](#). Thank you in advance for your support.

### Active Lives Survey

We have been invited to take part in the National Active Lives Survey from Sport England. The survey measures participation in sport and physical activity and the information collected through the survey will help Sport England to invest in future opportunities that benefit young people. Next week, your child may receive a link to the online survey during their PE class, it will take about 20 minutes to complete. If you do not want your child to take part in this survey, simply ask them not to use the link on their PE assignment. More information regarding the survey can be found [here](#).



### SSAT Award

The Marches School has been bestowed with an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award! The certificate is presented in recognition of being in the top 20% of non-selective schools nationally for student attainment in the 2019 end of KS5 exams.



### Student Spotlight

Last week, Ms Nash asked her Year 7 students to consider whether they thought we would ever colonise Mars, to the point at which a human would ever be born there. They were asked to watch a couple of videos with opposite viewpoints and to do some of their own research, before using a writing frame to explain their thoughts. Ms Nash was impressed with many of the responses, but wanted to give a special shout out to Floyd Harrison, who produced a very well written, researched and well-constructed response that made staff smile.



### Photography Competition

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent Virtual House Photography Competition! We had some super entries from students and staff, with those placed earning vital points for their houses – [click here](#) to view the fantastic photos. Congratulations to Olivia Roberts in Whittaker House, who was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in the student category.



### Supporting Your Mental Health

Looking after your mental health during COVID-19 is incredibly important. Shropshire Council have put together this useful booklet – please click [here](#). It contains key information regarding where local help and support can be found, provides a list of helpful online resources for both parents and children and contains a number of fun activities to support wellbeing during isolation.



### Special Message

We are so grateful to Hannah Cockroft who kindly sent us a lovely video. A champion has taken the time to say "hi" to us all! We are so honoured and cannot wait to see her race again soon. [Click here](#) to watch.

### Year 11 Leadership Group Applications

If your Year 10 child has not yet applied, they have access to the form in their year group Team. We would love to receive a few more.

### Trust Update

The Government have issued guidance that schools can return from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Whilst we never closed any of our schools and have been providing extremely extensive home learning, we are now in a position to work with our communities initially to bring back those children in **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** across our Primary Schools. We recognise as a Trust that this is a difficult time for staff, parents and children. We are committed to ensuring that we continue to work with our communities, maintaining the positivity. We will continue to provide information to you as it becomes available.

### Competitions & Challenges

**History Competition:** The Historical Association are running a 'Write Your Own Historical Fiction Competition 2020'. Winning students will each receive a cash prize, engraved paperweight and a year's free subscription to the Historical Association for their school. Entries close on Friday 26 June 2020, click [here](#) for more details.

**History Competition:** Focus Games Ltd are challenging all age groups to create a unique piece of work, drawing, poster, short story, video or artwork in order to celebrate 100 Great Black Britons and their legacy. Entries close on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, click [here](#) for more information.

**Geography Competition:** The Royal Geographical Society are running their Young Geographer of the Year Competition, asking students to submit entries based around the theme of 'the world beyond my window'. Full competition details can be found [here](#). The deadline for receipt of all entries is Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 5.00pm.

**Marches Academy Trust Challenge:** Professional boxer Tom Farrell is challenging students from across The Marches Academy Trust to complete as many burpees as they can in 30 seconds. Follow our [Facebook page](#) to find out more, take part and have the opportunity to win a medal.

## CAREERS

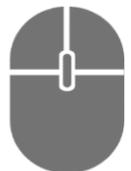
Mrs Murphy, our Careers Adviser, will be available for remote career guidance during the school closure should your child have any career or work experience related questions or concerns. She will be sending out useful articles and will be in touch with Colleges and Sixth Forms to keep abreast of developments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



## WEBSITE QUICK LINKS

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

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



## USEFUL CONTACTS

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

## FACEBOOK

Please follow us on Facebook @[MarchesSchool](#) for supplementary home learning ideas, news, competitions 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](#).

