

Dear Parents and Carers,

So ends another strange half-term, with the reality that, other than Year 10, Year 12 and children of key workers, we will not have students in the building again this academic year. Something that saddens us greatly.

We are focused at this time in ensuring that our online community remains strong and that some key milestones in the summer term can be marked in some way – Presentation Evening, Governors Rewards Event and Sports Awards to name just a few. The end of year House BBQ might be a stretch too far.

When the government is confident about the safe return for groups of Year 10 and Year 12 students, we are ready, however no date has been shared as yet. We will share more when guidance is clear.

Students in all year groups will still receive their online lessons next term. We will also begin another round of keeping-in-touch calls to all families. Please do speak up if you feel we can support any welfare needs. We have our Wellbeing team on hand who are happy to get involved.

Finally, Year 11 have taken part in bridging lessons this week for Sixth Form, which have gone down well and had a strong uptake. We will be launching something similar for our Year 6 students joining us in September, so if you have a child due to move up, look out for our Virtual Transition launch in a few weeks' time.

Lessons will of course stop over half-term, I hope the weather continues to be bright, it makes such a difference. Thank you for your continued support, it has been valued by all the staff here at school.

Mrs A Pearson
Headteacher



NOTICES

Mental Health Awareness Week

It is important to look after our mental health now more than ever, and as such, we have created a new webpage for our site with a focus on wellbeing – [here](#). It contains a helpful collection of resources, support information and advice on who you can contact both in and out of school if you are struggling.

Zoom With Renowned Theatre Director

Mrs Gilpin, Associate Director of Performance Across the Trust, recently had the opportunity to have a Zoom chat with Scott Graham, the Artistic Director for world renowned Theatre Company, Frantic Assembly. This gave her the chance to get answers to some of the questions students often ask about Frantic Assembly and the A Level set text of Curious Incident. Read the full story and watch her Zoom meeting [here](#).

Half-Term Reminder

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.

Fantastic Home Learning

Year 8 were asked to complete a project around Victorian Children. They researched what life was like, completed a character study and thought about how the treatment of the children affected the way Britain is run today. They were asked to present their ideas in a creative way and Miss Smith was so impressed with the way they handled this sensitive issue! [Click here](#) to see some of the great examples.

We also wanted to share with you this absolutely fantastic geography work by Marina Georgieva. She has really gone above and beyond for her rivers project, creating this spectacular model, with an outstanding level of detail!



E-Safety: Parent Guide to Remote Learning

Most of us have been on a very steep learning curve when it comes to remote learning. It can be quite a challenge firstly to master the technology, never mind trying to build in work management, factor in online dangers and everyday life. Children can often become anxious due to workload matters, whether it is their belief that they have not done enough, or worry they have struggled to get started. Maybe as a parent you are concerned that they are doing too much. Many of these issues can trigger a 'melt down'. The organisation, National Online Safety, has released some very 'common sense' guidance for parents, [here](#). Hopefully this will support you in building a positive remote learning experience.



Why not also visit our new [Online Safety](#) webpage, packed with useful details to support your child's online learning during COVID-19.

Trust Update

The Government have issued guidance that schools can return from 1st 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 and work to engage with students in **Year 10 and Year 12** across the Secondary 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.

Each school is working on the safest way to bring students back to school and will communicate plans as they are available to the specific year groups.

We appreciate your support and ask that you bear with us whilst we finalise our plans.

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 26th 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 30th 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 30th 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



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 https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/
Parenting Team SEND Local Offer	01743 250950 https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/

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](#).

