

Dear Parents and Carers,

A wider reopening – with continuing education for all.

Our final preparations are in place for the wider reopening of the school on Monday for Years 10 and 12. We are greatly looking forward to seeing them and getting into the classroom again. The school is not the same without the students' vibrancy, noise and energy and we really have missed them.

All our plans have needed to follow the government's restrictions which have been put in place to protect public health. As soon as it is deemed that these restrictions can be lifted further, we will be working hard to realise more time with students, along with a higher number of students having the opportunity to be in school with the teachers and their peers - where we would like them to be.

This increase does not look likely until at least September, and we continue to monitor the daily Department of Education emails for news on this and will keep you informed when there is some clarity.

So, whilst we will see Year 10 and Year 12 in school and continue to work with a number of students from key worker families each day, we absolutely will not drift away from the online learning for these and all year groups in our school, as well as ensuring we include enrichment events that are a big part of our summer calendar.

Our Sports Day will take place in a new format from the 22nd June and our annual Sponsored Walk will take place on Monday 13th July. We annually walk 6.5 miles, with students and staff able to enjoy each other's company in a different setting, whilst also getting active. This year we will be encouraging our students to begin to plan where their walk will be and share their adventure with us online. We will be raising funds for the students chosen local charity for this year – the Movement Centre at the Orthopaedic Hospital. With lockdown, our fundraising has been limited this year and so this is an opportunity to boost our total and support this charity funded organisation in our local community.

Mrs A Pearson
Headteacher



NOTICES

Green Fingers

A big thank you to Oliver Done in Year 10, who has been helping to look after our flower displays at the entrance to the school throughout lockdown. Oliver spends an hour a week, helping to maintain the plants and hanging baskets and they look fantastic as a result! Well done Oliver!



Cooking up a Storm

Mrs Heighway has been sharing recipes with her Year 7 class to try at home. Well done to Rui who made some excellent chocolate cookies and to Molly who made a delicious pasta bake!



Virtual House Update

Since lockdown began, our House Competition has been taking place virtually with students getting involved with lots of fun activities, please [click here](#) to view the current standings. The virtual results will be combined with the competitions ran in school this year in order to announce the overall 2019-20 House Winner, who will of course be celebrated at our 'virtual' House BBQ this term. It is very close at the top, with the winning House changing after each competition so far.

As well as Sports Day, we will be running another photography competition and a sports-based quiz. Students should check their House team page to take part. If there are any issues with this, students should please contact either [Mrs Heighway](#) or [Mrs Grassby](#) to resolve.

Student Spotlight

Congratulations to Isla Rothera in Year 7, who has achieved her Silver Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) and is the first student in school to do so!



iDEA is an international programme that helps develop digital, enterprise and employability skills. Through a series of online challenges, students can win career enhancing badges, unlock new opportunities and ultimately gain industry recognised awards that help them to stand out from the crowd.

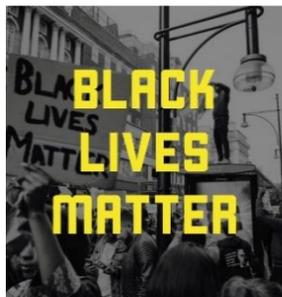
Isla has worked really hard since October to achieve firstly her Bronze and now her Silver Award, completing hours and hours of work, and will no doubt fly through her Gold Award when it is released! In the Digital Centre, staff are working hard to ensure as many students as possible also achieve their Bronze and Silver Awards and we hope we will have lots of certificates to order when we return to school!

Virtual STEM Event

Staffordshire University in association with Big Bang are holding an online exploration of all things Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics on the 16th and 17th June. Please [click here](#) to find out more and to register your place – [here](#).

Black Lives Matter

In History this week, students have had time in lesson to look at the issues surrounding the Black Lives Matter protests across the world. Students have been learning about issues in the past and how they connect to today.



Trust News

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is now up and running in Shropshire and The Marches Academy Trust is part of this fantastic scheme. The initiative will see West Mercia Police working closely with schools and Shropshire Council to ensure the welfare of children who may have witnessed domestic abuse incidents. Members of school staff will receive special training enabling them to provide emotional and practical support for students experiencing domestic abuse. Full information regarding the initiative can be read in this article compiled by West Mercia Police – [click here](#).

Email Protocol - a message to our parents and carers

As we all adapt to the "new normal" it is very important to us that we work closely with parents and carers to ensure the regular communication between home and school remains. In the absence of being able to meet face to face with staff, it might mean an increase in email communication.

Contacting the school via email:

Supporting the young people in our care and managing the wellbeing and workload of our staff team is paramount. We also want to continue to support our parents and carers by responding to parental queries at the earliest opportunity.

Whilst our Headteachers, teachers and associate staff are prioritising the smooth running of our schools and the reintegration of our young people, they may not be in a position to respond to emails straight away. Also, for the wellbeing of our staff, we do not expect staff to check or respond to work emails during their personal/family time.

Expectations for email communications between parents / carers and our staff:

Emails from parents/carers will be responded to during school working hours (8am-4pm).

Our staff will respond to you as soon as possible and within three working days. This does not include weekends or holidays. Part-time staff may take longer to reply. If an urgent response is required, please contact the school office.

We will continue to monitor our approach to email communication to improve the process further and welcome any feedback you may have.

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

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](#).



WEBSITE QUICK LINKS

Please click on the following useful links to find out more: • [News](#) • [Home Learning](#) • [Term Dates](#).

