

Dear Parents and Carers,

After only one day open to some year groups on Monday, we are back into the routines of a new National Lockdown. We have been able to build on the experiences of last summer and all year groups are accessing lessons – live or remotely, through Microsoft Teams. If you did not read the letter sent earlier in the week, it can be found [here](#) with further details.

We remain open to children from [critical worker](#) families and those with internet access challenges. We are also pleased that from Monday, students in school will be accessing PE lessons to their normal timetable; physical health is so connected to mental wellbeing at this time. Students in school now need a packed lunch each day.

Please be aware that whilst reception is now closed for visitors, staff are manning the phone and email lines of communication.

The Parent Arbor free app is available to all families now. Lesson gradings are still to be earned throughout lockdown and you will see these grades appearing on the app – see the feature below to understand our lesson grading system further and how this links to rewards. During this remote learning period, a grade of a 3 indicates no evidence of students engaging in the lesson. Each teacher will make it clear at the start of the lesson what is required from the students in order to not be graded a 3 in that particular session. Families may find this a useful monitoring tool at home.

A team of staff have begun our routine calls to keep in touch – please do let them know of any difficulties that we can help with, as well as anything we should be aware of to celebrate.

There is much that we still do not know for the remainder of the year – when schools will reopen, and the system behind the awarding of GCSE and A Level qualifications. We understand that this builds anxiety, but we will continue to share all confirmed information as soon as we have it. What we do know, is that education is not solely for exams - students will need the body of knowledge, skills and understanding in the next stage of their education and therefore learning is continuing. Students still need to focus well and engage with learning.

Thank you, as always, for your support at this time.

Mrs Alison Pearson
Headteacher



REMINDERS & NOTICES

Lesson Grading - A Parent Guide

Each lesson, staff will award a lesson grade to each child based on the effort and focus on learning that the teacher has seen. Many teachers will do this live at the end of the lesson with the students, with a discussion. Other staff will complete these later in the day. Please note that the following explanation of a grade 3 applies only to students who are in school and not those who are learning remotely from home.

A **grade 1** shows a student was actively engaged, has outstanding effort and completed all work beyond expectation. A **grade 2** shows engaged students and good effort.

A **grade 3** shows that the student has not given their best to the lesson and may have negatively affected the learning of themselves or others.

A **grade 4** shows that the student has chosen to significantly affect the learning of others, this may have been managed by removing that student.

All grading is monitored and responded to every day by the Head of Academic Progress and the Leadership team.

The Parent Arbor app gives you live lesson grades to support your conversations about learning with your child – you can read more on our website [here](#).

Accessing Teams on Xbox and PS4

Xbox: from the 'My games and apps', find Microsoft Edge internet browser and Type in Office 365 and login in the usual way.

Playstation: Go to the library and 'Options for games and applications'. Identify the Playstation internet browser (www with dots around it). Type in Office 365 and login in the usual way.

We have a number of keyboards available, please get in touch if this is of use.

Parent Forum News

We have held a very successful online parent forum, discussing the Arbor app, Curriculum and other points the panel wished to raise. Actions included a number of information pieces in the bulletin that have begun today, and an update on tutor pen portraits which will reach you in a couple of weeks.

Would you like to be on the next online Parent Forum panel? Please contact:

Pritchard.d@mar.mmat.org.uk The focus will be online learning and our support for the students.

The forum lasts about 1 hour and will be in the afternoon or early evening, with member of the Leadership team, listening and responding to points raised.

Look out... A new member of the school community has been spotted...

Rewards - Online - Students are still earning those important points!

Did you know that every time your child gets a lesson grade of a 1 – they automatically gain 2 reward points? For every lesson grade of a 2 – they gain 1 reward point.

Reward points totals can be seen on the Parent Arbor app and they are worth real rewards – stationary, free lunch items or, for more points – an experience such as mocktails with the ITC staff, mountain biking in the summer term or a £5 voucher from **Shlurp!**

Our rewards shop is on our website [here](#) and our thank you to **Morrisons** for their support, as well as **Shlurp**.

250 orders have been placed so far this year – with those orders packed and ready to go.

Students can access their points through their online Arbor account.

The shop and ordering can be done through the House Team.

If you are able to support our rewards shop, please contact: leighway.h@mar.mmat.org.uk



Rewards packed and ready to go

FOCUS Local Charity Partner News



We extended our partnership with **The Movement Centre** beyond the year this year due to the lockdown of the summer. We were pleased to be able to hand over almost £3000 last term due to the hard work of the students. Students have now voted, in a very close race, to this year support **Ethos**. Ethos provide adapted, short-term accommodation and advocacy support for people with life-changing physical disabilities. See more [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [here](#) to view our upcoming events.

House Events

Week 1 – Quiz, History TikTok

Week 2 – Coding, Photography

Week 3 – Bake Off at Home

Winter Olympics

29th January – Rewards Roadshow

The bus is coming into town!

Click [here](#) to view our term dates.



NEWS

Click [here](#) to view our latest news articles.

Why not also follow us on Facebook [@MarchesSchool](#) for a wealth of content, from student, staff and school celebrations, to competitions. We encourage you to get interactive with our posts!

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

