

### Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the return of our more visual parent bulletin after exploring online alternatives. We feel that this format, straight into your inbox is the best way to share items of value with you, as well as to best showcase the vibrant life of the school in all its breadth. As always, we welcome your feedback regarding the change.

With just a week to go of the Autumn term, the school is still working at full pace with our first SALAD Day of the year and our, always powerful, Year 11 Mock Results Day – the start of the 20 week countdown to GCSE exams.

We continue to be thankful to all our parents and carers for your work in keeping Covid-19 out of the school, we are optimistic that this continues in the week ahead and have been preparing a special whole school assembly which will be watched on screen in tutor groups for the final session of the week. We will celebrate the hard work of the students and showcase some of the talent in music and drama throughout the school. We will also be hearing the finalists of our Battle of the Bands House Competition with live voting. It is shaping into an event to really start the festive period for the students.

Staff will be retaining a focus on high standards for the final week. Please support us in this by ensuring that pencil cases are fully stocked. Students should also be bringing their own water bottle into school to make use of our water fountains. Students without a water bottle, and in need of a drink at lunchtime, may ask the restaurant staff for a paper cone (the style seen at health spas or gyms). No student should be going without a drink with their lunch.

We would also ask that the length of trousers and skirts are checked and updated where your child has grown this term.

*Mrs Alison Pearson*  
**Headteacher**



## REMINDERS & NOTICES

### Carol Concert

We are delighted to announce that this year's Carol Concert will go live next Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm, though a link on our webpage.

Our Carol Concert this year is being shared with all the community of Oswestry to enjoy – for the school, the event really does mark the start of Christmas.

Our thanks to St Oswald's Church and Reverend Harvey for the use of the church for many of the performances.

### Peace Project



### Duke of Edinburgh Update

The first group of students have been awarded their Duke of Edinburgh 'Certificates of Achievement'. Due to Covid-19, the expeditions this year have had to be cancelled, however DofE have allowed us to award Certificates of Achievement to participants who have worked incredibly hard to complete their skill, volunteering and undertaking physical sections independently this year.

This is a massive achievement and shows great resilience and self-motivation.

### Sixth Form Art Challenge

Sixth Form students recently completed a Challenge to recreate pieces of Art.

Students spent time seeking out props and scouting locations to recreate many well-known master pieces.

The standard was high, and judging was extremely difficult.

6FG with their interpretation of Liberty Leading the People by Eugène Delacroix won the event against some stiff competition.



Liberty Leading the People

### Year 11 News

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of December was an exciting day for our Year 11 students with the Mock Exam Results event. This is always a key event in the year, which helps to focus their minds and there was a palpable atmosphere in the room.

Please ask your child to show you their "Golden Ticket" - a sheet with comments from their teachers telling the students how they can achieve their very best in August.

It is worth placing this on the fridge or other prominent shared place, where it will be seen when your child needs a boost in the weeks ahead, as we all work together to support them to achieve more than they thought they could.

After the Christmas break, Year 11 students will see their exam preparation step up a gear with the launch of the **Planning Phase** of our Countdown to Success programme. More to follow on this.

### Festive Food Week

There will be no Christmas lunch this year, however the restaurant are still celebrating with a full week of festive offerings. Each day a festive item will be available to enjoy, along with the regular selection of meals and snacks.

### Christmas Jumper Day

As is our usual tradition, all students may swap out their school jumper for a Christmas one on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**. It is not a non-uniform day and no donation is required. Please note that Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December is a normal school day.

## FOCUS SALAD Day – Speaking and Listening All Day.



Students in many lower school lessons have spent Tuesday developing their speaking and listening skills in debates and other, no pen, events. Communication is vital for success in today's world and these days highlight the need to be able to articulate an argument and get their point across clearly. More to follow on this, along with images.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Events at a glance:

- Carol Concert – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December.
- Futures Week – Wellbeing – Starting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- Upcoming House Events in the new term - Coding Competition, Winter Sports and Marches Bake Off 2021.

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](#).

