

### Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views on **smart watches**. Our feedback fed into the Trust schools and was formative in the outcome. There was a straight 50/50 split in views for a total ban, and for thought about the responsible use of a smart watch for tracking health and the benefits to mental wellbeing that this can bring.

As a result, from September, smart watches may be worn as a passive tool, for example to track steps only. They are not permitted to be used by students to replace the functionality of a phone, for example messaging, recording, or playing games. Watches used incorrectly will have the same sanction as is already in place for the phone – confiscation for a parent or carer to collect before 4pm that day – or returned to a student at the end of the day with a note from a parent/carer.

Please note that this is distinct from the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) who set the rules and regulations for English examinations – for those external exams, watches of any kind are now banned. This is not something we can change and is not optional. Students who are not comfortable with leaving a watch in their bag, should not bring the watch to school for external examinations.

**Our laps for Ukraine** are continuing – on Wednesday we are now just outside Collonge at 589 miles. Donations are still welcome via you Arbor app.



Shropshire Council Highways and Transport Department have asked us to share that **cars parked on Weston Lane** should not be blocking the pathway following local complaints – please can we support the request to park further away from school, where there is suitable space.

*Mrs Alison Pearson*  
**Headteacher**



## REMINDERS & NOTICES

### Tug of War is back!

Always a favourite – the House Tug of War took place last week with the roof coming off the Sports Hall from the team supporters. The staff event was today, check back next week to see how that one went!



### Junior Sports Leaders – Primary Orienteering



Pupils battled through the rain to find 10 stamps supported by 17 Year 8 students, part of the Marches Leadership Academy, who ran all the competitions. Students demonstrated their excellent leadership skills whilst being superb role models for the competitors. Well done to The Meadows on their win.

### Exam Final Pieces Come Together

Phoebe Shaw in Year 12 making excellent progress. Phoebe is looking at the co-dependent relationship between man and machine. Phoebe is also recording her creative process to create a short documentary outlining the project.

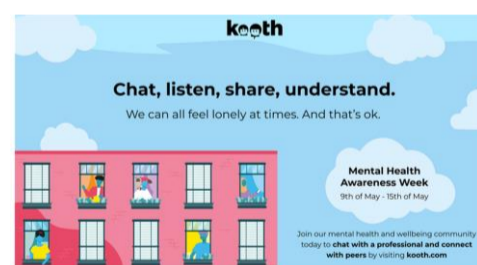


### Year 7's Beautiful Drawing Skills



### Our Learning Community

Miss Phillips gives a shout out to Abbie Griffiths in Year 8 who has taught Miss over lunches to complete the Rubik's Cube. "Abbie is an excellent teacher; she has broken the steps down to make it easy to follow and has had to use a huge amount of patience when I kept getting stuck!"



## FOCUS



**Sporting Careers Trip** I was lucky enough to take part in this event organised by LLS, with a mix of Year 11 and Year 9 students. We visited Total Ninja and watched a Champion's League match. Total Ninja was so fun, we had a great time racing around on the inflatables, and it was so lovely to get involved in the Football match as a group and see smiles on everyone's faces. They were all so enthusiastic about the trip and were respectful to the staff and we represented our school well. **Tamzin Guntrip**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [here](#) to view our upcoming events. Events at a glance:

- 16<sup>th</sup> May - Start of GCSE / A Level examinations.
- 27<sup>th</sup> May – last day of summer 1 half-term.
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Return to school after the half-term break.

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 students and staff, along with 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.