

Dear Families,

I hope this bulletin finds you well. With the weather beginning to turn, it certainly feels like autumn is giving way to winter!

This week, I wanted to share the rationale behind how we structure our Parents’ and Carers’ Evenings. Schools are permitted to “direct” teachers for 1,265 hours per academic year. This directed time includes teaching, tutoring, reporting, training, and events such as Parents’ and Carers’ Evenings. It does not include the additional hours teachers spend planning, marking, or working from home. As such, the time available for Parents’ and Carers’ Evenings is limited, which means we are unable to offer multiple evenings per year group or extend appointment slots beyond the standard five minutes within the three-hour window.

Our approach is to ensure that if there are concerns about a student’s learning, we do not wait for Parents’ and Carers’ Evenings to raise them. We will contact families directly to discuss any issues as they arise.

We strongly believe that meaningful conversations are the most valuable form of feedback. That’s why students in Years 11, 12, and 13 have two Parents’ and Carers’ Evenings each year. These are scheduled to follow mock exams and precede the summer exam series, allowing for timely and actionable discussions.

Year 7 also have two evenings, the first, in October, is a tutor-led check-in to support the end of the transition process. The second provides face-to-face meetings with subject teachers, offering around 40 minutes of conversation in total.

The Year 9’s evening is linked to the Options process and takes place in February.

Subject evenings for Years 7 and 8 are scheduled to allow time for students to act on feedback before the end of the academic year.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



REMINDERS & NOTICES

Marches Trust Orchestral Day!

Students had a fantastic day participating in The Marches Trust Orchestra Day! This involved 70 students from the Trust and Feeder primary schools who enjoyed a fantastic day of orchestral playing! Pieces included Viva La Vida, Don't Stop Believing and Mamma Mia! The students were very lucky to have the Barnes Theatre facility to use for the day!

'Today was very good and I loved playing the guitar with everyone, it was epic!!!'  
**Dougie Price**



Year 7 Science students rocketing towards the end of term!



Attendance Matters



As we begin the new school year, we want to remind families how vital regular attendance is. Missing **just two days** a month can quickly disrupt learning and **progress**.

Being in school every day helps children thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally. It builds confidence, friendships, and essential routines.

We are here to work with you. If your child faces any challenges, please reach out. Together, we can make sure every child gets the best start this year.

Key Priorities for our School this year



**Literacy**  
This year, we are making sure everyone gets better at reading, writing, and speaking because strong literacy helps you succeed in every subject and prepares you for life beyond school.

**Teaching and Learning**  
We are working hard to make lessons even more engaging and effective, so students can learn more, remember more, and enjoy time in the classroom.

**Learning for Life**  
School isn't just about exams, we want to help students build the skills, confidence, and character that they need for, wherever their future takes them.

**Quality Assurance**  
We are constantly checking how things are going from lessons to support. To make sure every student gets the best possible experience at school.

**Culture**  
We are building a school culture where everyone feels safe, respected, and proud to be part of our community, because how we treat each other matters.

FOCUS



Congratulations to Oliver Pierce - £2000 Music Bursary

Congratulations to **Oliver Pierce** for being awarded the Lions Club £2000 Music Bursary. Oliver auditioned for the panel in the summer term and they were extremely impressed with his classical guitar playing!



UPCOMING EVENTS

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



- Open Evening – Thursday 18th September
- Welcome to Sixth Form Event – Wednesday 24th September
- Collaboration Day – Friday 26th September
- Year 10 Welcome to GCSE Parent Event – Thursday 2nd October

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.