

Dear Families,

Earlier in the year, I shared our 'Big 5' drivers—five key areas guiding our School Development Plan and shaping the work we do every day.

This week's bulletin takes a closer look at two of these priorities: the continued growth of our Ready Respectful, Safe culture and the fantastic progress students are making in literacy. The energy, positivity and effort from our young people have been wonderful to see, whether in Circle Up time in Crew discussions or the impressive gains in reading and vocabulary.

A huge thank you must also go to our incredible staff. Their hard work, creativity and unwavering commitment are what bring these improvements to life, and we are so grateful for everything they do.

We will be sharing updates on the remaining 'Big 5' areas in next week's bulletin, so you can follow how each strand is developing across the school.

Thank you, as always, for your support—it helps us keep The Marches a wonderful place to be a child.



REMINDERS & NOTICES



Ready, Respectful, Safe – Our Culture!

Autumn Term Focus

This term we introduced CREWs (our new tutor groups) to give students a positive start to the day. CREWs have been “circling up” for discussion-based sessions, celebrating Lesson Grade 1s, and practising gratitude by saying “Thank you.”

Students also created their own definitions of our culture values: **READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE**. One example from Year 10:

“Respectful means treating others how we want to be treated – listening, allowing opinions, speaking kindly, using manners, and helping others.”

What's Next?

In Spring Term, CREWs will tackle more challenging conversations, including Lesson Grade 3s and lateness. We will teach the skill of apologising, supported by assemblies on the “Why” and “How.” Finally, we will focus sharply on punctuality – students who arrive late miss this valuable CREW time. If this affects your child, you will hear from us soon.



Literacy

Autumn Term

It has been a busy and successful term for literacy. Year 7 have worked hard on their Bedrock Reading Programme, while Years 7–9 have developed their non-fiction reading and comprehension skills. Targeted interventions have supported many students, including IDL for dyslexic learners, Lexonik for vocabulary development, Fresh Start Phonics for Nurture Groups and Flash Academy for our EAL students. Staff have also received training on the importance of reading and effective vocabulary teaching. The progress students have made has been fantastic.

What's Next?

In the Spring Term, Bedrock Reading Tests for Years 8, 9 and 10 will help us measure the impact of our curriculum and interventions. A new round of literacy programmes—guided by data—will begin, and we are introducing curriculum developments informed by Doug Lemov's recent 'Science of Reading' research. Reading remains one of the most important skills for your child's success; thank you for continuing to support reading at home.

Ready, Respectful, Safe – Our Culture!

Update from Mr Pritchard - Assistant Headteacher



Literacy

Update from Mr Kemble - Assistant Headteacher



FOCUS

Advance Notice – PD and Collaboration Day



Monday 23 rd February	PD Day	No students in school.
Tuesday 24 th February	Collaboration Day	Only Year 11 students in school. Further details to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Wednesday 28th January – Year 8 Family World of Work Day
Thursday 5th February - Year 9 Options & Family Evening
Thursday 5th February - Year 12 UCAS Fayre

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.

