

Dear Families,

I hope you and your family are well. As the mornings become a little darker and the temperatures begin to drop, autumn is certainly making its presence felt.

This week, I wanted to explain how we plan our Families' Evenings and the thinking behind the structure we use.

Teachers are allocated 1,265 directed hours each academic year. These hours cover teaching, Crew, training, reporting, meetings and events such as Families' Evenings. They do not include the considerable amount of time staff spend preparing lessons, marking work and supporting students outside the school day. As a result, the number and length of Families' Evenings we can offer is limited. This means we are unable to run multiple evenings for every year group or extend appointments beyond the standard five-minute slots within the evening. Where there are concerns about a student's progress, attendance or wellbeing, we do not wait until a Families' Evening to discuss them. We will always contact families directly so that support and action can begin as soon as possible.

We believe that face-to-face conversations provide some of the most valuable feedback for both families and school staff. For this reason, students in Years 11, 12 and 13 have two Families' Evenings each year. These are carefully timed around key assessment points, allowing families to discuss progress following mock examinations and to consider the next steps before the summer examination series. Year 7 families are also invited to two evenings. The first, held in October, is led by Crew Leaders and focuses on how students have settled into secondary school life. The second provides the opportunity to meet subject teachers and discuss learning across the curriculum. For Year 9 families, the Families' Evening is an important stage in the Options process, taking place before students make their key subject choices for Key Stage 4.

Families' Evenings for Years 7 and 8 are scheduled at points in the year that allow students time to respond to feedback and make meaningful improvements before the end of the academic year.



REMINDERS & NOTICES

Gold DofE Expedition

The Gold Expedition took place in the last week of the summer term. Students successfully completed an average of 15km of walking each day on their journey from Harlech to Barmouth, taking in stunning scenery and showing great resilience in some challenging weather. The activity provider said they were one of the best groups they have assessed ever! Well done team.



We were delighted to work with the outstanding **John's Boys Choir** during the summer term. The choir visited The Marches to deliver inspiring workshops for both Sixth Form and lower school students, giving them a fantastic opportunity to develop their musical skills and experience the energy and passion of one of the UK's leading choirs. We are excited to be continuing this partnership throughout the coming academic year and look forward to the opportunities it will bring for our students.



Key Priorities for our School this year



Attendance and Belonging

We want every student to be in school every day, feeling valued and connected. Attendance is about more than learning; it is about friendships, opportunities and being part of our community.

Inclusion

Every child should feel seen, supported and able to succeed. We are committed to ensuring all students can thrive, regardless of their background or individual needs.

Outcomes That Matter

We are ambitious for every student. Alongside strong qualifications, we want young people to develop the confidence, resilience and character they need for the future.

Consistency and High Standards

We are focused on providing a high-quality experience for every student, every day, through strong teaching, clear routines and high expectations.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

These are at the heart of everything we do. By working together, we create a school where students feel safe, respected and able to achieve their best.

FOCUS

Cricket Stars



Three Year 9 students - Max Walpole, Adam Humphries and George Lambert helped Oswestry U13 win the Shropshire County Vitality Cup.

A great achievement and we wish them luck as they move on to the regional quarter finals.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Thursday 17th September – Open Evening
Thursday 24th September – New intake Welcome Event for Year 12
Friday 25th September – Collaboration Day
Thursday 1st October – Year 10 Welcome to GCSE Evening

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.

