

Dear Families,

What a brilliant half-term it has been!

There is so much to celebrate as we wrap up the first part of the autumn term. A real highlight yesterday was the Year 7 Halloween Spooktacular event. It was lovely seeing all their smiling faces and the Performing Arts team and Crew Leaders did an amazing job. A special shout out to Mr Holmes and Mr Syson who performed on stage with their Crew.

Our students have made a fantastic start to the year, embracing our values and making the most of every opportunity. Last week, two primary colleagues joined me for a walk around school and commented on how strongly our culture could be felt. They saw **Ready, Respectful and Safe** being lived out by staff and students across the school, which was lovely to hear.

Over the break, we have got a group heading off to New York—what an incredible experience that will be! A huge thank you to all the staff at The Marches who work so hard to make these opportunities happen. From Art and Photography fieldwork to Music visits and more, it has been a packed and exciting half-term. We hope everyone has a well-earned break, and the students come back refreshed for the half-term ahead.



REMINDERS & NOTICES

Sixth Form Enrichment

Year 12 students attended Tickwood in Much Wenlock for an enrichment activity with other schools across the Trust. Students took part in an 8-mile hike and bushcraft activities. The experience focused on personal development, wellbeing, teamwork and building connections across the Open 6 community.

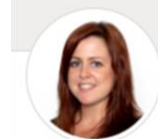


Year 7 Science Practicals – helped by Year 13

Year 7 students took part in a Science practical learning all about safety in labs and practiced using Bunsen Burners. Year 13 students were there to lend a hand. It is lovely seeing our oldest and youngest working together.



Leadership Update Assistant Headteacher Teaching and Learning



Mrs Georgina Hughes

This year, we have introduced a new approach to homework in Key Stage 3. Students in the same year group now receive the same homework in each subject, reflecting the fact that they are learning the same curriculum content. These tasks are designed to help students revisit and strengthen what they have learned in lessons, building confidence and improving long-term understanding. By developing positive homework habits now, students will be better prepared for assessments and future success.

As this is a new approach, we are keen to hear how students are getting on with homework at home. Next half-term, we will be sending families a short feedback survey to gather your views and help us refine and shape our homework provision so that it best meets the needs of your children.

Thank you for your continued support in encouraging your child to make the most of these valuable learning opportunities.

FOCUS

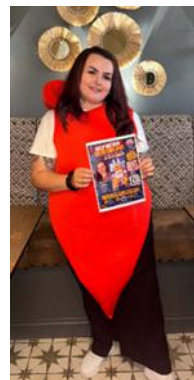


Former Student Spotlight: Becky Dibble 🛩️

We are delighted to celebrate former Marches student **Becky Dibble**, who left school 10 years ago and is now a finalist in a national crisp competition.

Becky's flavour, **Grilled Cheese & Chilli Jam**, is one of the final two flavours competing for the top spot. Along the way, she has appeared on BBC Radio Shropshire, filmed content with influencer Moyo, visited the crisp factory in Leicester, and even met TV chef Phil Vickery.

The winning flavour will be decided by whichever of the two finalists sells the most by **30 November**, so we are hoping our school community will get behind Becky and show their support. Congratulations, Becky, and best of luck in the final! 🎉



UPCOMING EVENTS



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

Saturday 17th October – New York Trip
Monday 2nd November – All students return to school
Thursday 5th November – Years 12 & 13 Families Evening
Thursday 19th November – Oswestry Christmas Light Switch on

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](#).