



## **PARENT BULLETIN**

### **FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

#### **Message from the Principal**

What a year this has been.

This is due to be my last bulletin of the year. Though I am sure there will be more correspondence over the summer than ever before; as we look to put in place the best possible start in September and I am very aware of how quickly things can change. Please do try to read the bulletins as they will contain vital information at the moment.

It is difficult to sum up this year and any attempt to do so will invariably miss out so much. There are so many people who deserve thanks and so much to reflect on that it will probably be some time before we can really look back on this period properly. For now, I have a few thoughts:

- So many people have been inspirational. NHS staff, key workers, of course teachers and other school staff, so many of our students. Thank you all.
- People have been so grateful towards the efforts of others. It is so refreshing. We must make sure this continues.
- This has been very hard for everyone and sadly life changing for some. We must remember that and be thoughtful and show empathy moving forward.
- Many people have made huge sacrifices. We hope we are through the worst of it, but it is not over yet, let's make sure our actions over the summer don't undermine these efforts. We must stay vigilant.
- Many of us have changed our priorities and realised what is important in our lives. We should keep sight of this.
- Communities have come together. We must never lose this.

Personally I must thank every single member of our school community, for their hard work, dedication, compassion and kindness that has made it possible to manage this horrendous year in the best way we could.

Take care all. Stay safe. Be careful. And find some time to relax a little and recuperate before we see you all back in September.

Shaun Simmons. Principal.

#### **School Uniform**

As you know, we plan to start September with the normal school uniform expectations, with the only exception that students should wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE.

Over the summer we will have a new, safer process for ordering and purchasing uniform.

Uniform should now be ordered online via a new form on our website and orders will be prepared in advance of being collected. This system will be ready to take orders from 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Once ordered, you can then pay using your ParentPay account, or alternatively, payment can be made on collection using a debit or credit card only.

For uniform needed for the return to school in September, we ask all parents to place orders between Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August. Orders will then be available for collection from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August between 9am and 3pm from school Reception. A sizing guide can be found on the website, we ask that you measure your child/children accurately and choose the appropriate sizes as, during these unusual times, it is difficult to exchange any items once worn, even if only tried on once.

#### **Start of Term in September**

Although we want to get all students back into school as quickly as possible, it has become clear that it would not be sensible to have all students back on the same day in September, given how much will have changed, and how important it will be for us to keep Year groups as separated as possible. I realise this is not ideal, but unfortunately I think a necessity. The plan is as follows:

Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> August	Year 6 (New Y7) Induction Day
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Year 7,11,12 in school
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Year 7,8,10,11,12,13 in school
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> September	All students in school



### Results Days

For students receiving results during August, we of course remain open to changing procedures, but at this point hope to have as much socially distanced normality as possible. The plan is:

**A Level Results Day – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**GCSE Results Day – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Results are available 8am-11am. Please follow the signs to collect your results and maintain social distancing. Parents / carers are welcome if social distancing is maintained, but will not be allowed in the building. Staff will be available to support you.

### Apprenticeship Advice

The latest apprenticeship information & advice for parents, supported by the National Apprenticeship Service can be found in the Careers section of our website:

<https://www.marshacademy.org.uk/523/careers>

This month it covers: preparing for results day, boosting employability skills, the apprentice perspective during lockdown, Microsoft's new digital skills courses, a parent's take on apprenticeships and much more.

### School Transport

Students who get the Hamstreet / Aldington school bus, should receive a letter from us explaining the processes for the next year. Please do respond promptly in order to secure your place in the bus. If you have not received a letter by the end of next week, but were expecting to, please contact [info@marshacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@marshacademy.org.uk).

### Canteen Food

As prices of food supplies have risen during the COVID crisis, we have unfortunately had to increase some prices in our canteen from September. The main 'meal deal' will increase from £2.20 to £2.30. We think this is still very good value.

As explained in our FAQ document, unlike some other schools, we still plan to provide hot meals for students in September, but with a slightly reduced range of snacks and tight controls over how students use the canteen and where they eat their food.

### Post 16 Bursary Update

#### P16 BURSARY STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT WITH THE BUS PASS

As discussed on your Induction Day, the bus companies are now insisting that bus passes are applied for online. Please read the guidance issued by KCC: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-transport/16-travel-saver>.

On **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July** the Post 16 team will be available between **9-11 am** (in Business) to help process bus pass applications for Bursary students **unable to** apply directly on line.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- You must bring your completed bursary paperwork with the appropriate evidence\* or we will be unable to assist you.
- Bus passes will only be processed alongside the £100 (FSM students), or £250 deposit (cheques made payable to The Marsh Academy; cash will be accepted).
- For students experiencing financial difficulty, we can discuss a payment plan to run throughout the academic year (**please note**, that a deposit of £100 must be paid in order to proceed alongside the accompanying documentation \*)

\*See the Post 16 Bursary area of the website for further details.

### Summer Support

I would like to clarify our expectations for working over the summer holidays for students. We completely understand that for many students, they have worked incredibly hard over lockdown and need a break. I am sure we all need a break. That is of course fine and should be encouraged. However, there are some students and parents / carers who are keen for their children to engage in some learning over the summer to help catch up with what they have missed. This is why teachers have provided work through Show my Homework (SatchelOne) and many staff have offered to run online lessons over the summer which can be accessed through each student's Google Calendar. These are not compulsory, but for many students they might be useful.