



PARENT BULLETIN

FRIDAY 15TH JANUARY 2021

Message from the Principal

Thank you again for your support this week, the online lessons I have seen have been really encouraging and the number of students engaging in them is so much better than the first lockdown, so thank you for encouraging them. Thank you also to the parents who have sent us feedback, it can be quite demanding to teach an online lesson, knowing that often parents/carers can see or hear the lesson from elsewhere in the room, but so many of the comments coming in have been positive and reassuring.

Exam classes will already be aware that there has been confirmation that 'teacher assessment' will play a part in the grades awarded in the summer, but still much speculation about 'mini-exams' that might be part of the process. I would like to reiterate Mrs O'Gormley's letter to you and encourage you not to worry about this until we have certainty and just focus on continuing learning and doing the best you can do. Some students were able to sit exams in the Autumn and the results in this week for English and Maths resits were very encouraging, so well done to all who improved their grades.

The guidance published regarding which children are able to attend school at this time has been subtly re-written so that for the children of Critical Workers, it now states that where they can, they should stay at home. I think this is reflective of the number of cases and our area is sadly seeing this. While of course we will continue to support the children of our Critical Workers, it is probably worth reiterating that the lessons and learning being accessed at school is the same as that from home and so if a child can safely work from home they should. Even if a child who is currently coming into school full time, would be able to come in only part time, or if shift patterns change, let us know as this would help to keep numbers on site down and keep everyone as safe as possible.

We have also had a number of requests for students to be sent in because parents/carers are struggling to get them to work at home and it is clear that a lot of families are finding this lockdown difficult and in many cases harder than the first lockdown. This is not what the onsite provision is for, but if you are struggling, please contact us and we will find other ways to support you if we possibly can.

Finally, I would again like to thank staff who continue to work hard to look after our students, in particular those support staff still in school.

Take care and stay safe,

Shaun Simmons





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Year 9 GCSE Options

Due to the current circumstances, we have postponed our Year 9 Options Evening and are currently working on a plan to ensure students and parents are as informed as possible regarding next steps. You will receive a copy of the GCSE Courses Overview Booklet and Options Timeline next week.

Remote Learning

We are delighted with the engagement of the vast majority of students in remote learning and would like to thank you for your support with this. It is important to note that we are continuing with the delivery of our curriculum across all subjects including new topics and lesson content therefore I cannot emphasise enough how important it is for students to engage fully in all lessons and ensure they are submitting work to Satchel One as requested. If your child is experiencing any technical issues or needs additional support, please get in contact with us.

Post 16 Applications

Due to the current circumstances, the deadline for Post 16 applications to the Marsh Academy will be extended to February 12th February. I would like to remind you that all information required for an application, including the application form, can be found on the website at:

<https://www.marshacademy.org.uk/1067/applications-for-2020-2021> Applications should be emailed to asharp@marshacademy.org.uk.

Free School Meals

It is expected that the government's Free School Meals voucher system will begin again next week. Please ensure you have replied to the message sent to confirm your email address. If we do not have your correct email address you will not be able to receive your vouchers.

Remote Learning KS3

The classwork set on Satchel One is the same content being delivered in the online lessons. Students in Year 7-9 will not be set additional Home Learning (Homework) as they may need some extra time to complete the work set in the lessons which should be submitted using Satchel One. There will be no live lessons during morning break (10:10-10:30) and lunch (12:30-1pm) which is a good opportunity for students to take some time away from the screen. Please get in touch if we can offer any additional support to enable your child to successfully engage with their remote learning.

Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening Thursday 28th January

A gentle reminder that the booking system for the online Parents' Evening is open until 6pm on Tuesday 26th January. If you have not received information on how to book or are unable to attend please contact ldommett@marshacademy.org.uk. Your child should attend the appointment with you as this will be an excellent opportunity to discuss their progress with their teachers.

PE Live Lessons

On Monday 18th January we launch our very own 'Wake up, shake up' sessions with the PE Department live on our Instagram feed:

When: Every Weekday (Mon-Fri) 08:30 – 09:00

Where: Live on Instagram (follow us *MarshAcademyPEDept*)

Who: All students Years 7-13

With: A different member of the PE department will lead a different session each day.

Please note that we have closed down the account to keep it as safe as possible, but the minimum recommended age for students to be on social media platforms including Instagram is 13 years old. For our students who do not have access to Instagram, these sessions will be recorded and uploaded to Satchel One/Google Drive for them to access at a later stage. All information will be available on Satchel One.



Year 10 GCSE Revision Guides and Workbooks

To support Year 10 students with their GCSE preparation and revision, we have purchased a workbook and revision guide for each student in each of the three core subjects; Maths, English and Science. **If your child does not already have these guides, they will be available to collect from the Academy between 9am and 1pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.** If you are unable to collect these for your child, please let us know and we will do our best to deliver them to you.

Resources

We indicated in last week's newsletter that we could supply stationery and resources to support with students' learning, if needed. A reminder that you should email info@marshacademy.org.uk if you require any of the following: Exercise books, pens, pencils, colouring pencils, paper (plain and lined), calculator, geometry set, highlighters, ruler, rubber, sharpener and glue.

Online Safety Tip

When we are learning remotely, it is important to look after ourselves in every way. Please make sure that you are taking breaks away from the screen, staying hydrated and getting fresh air too. We also need to be mindful and stay safe on line.

Please also look after your mental health. <https://www.kooth.com/> have some great tips to look after your own wellbeing.

Follow **MarshAcademyPEDept** on Instagram

  | Instagram

**KS3
KS4
KS5**

**Live Physical Activity
Every weekday morning
8.30am til 9am**

MAPE – Helping to improve both your Physical and Mental Health

Speakers for Schools

A free series of free broadcasts available to all. There will be a different programme published every week during lockdown.

HOW TO JOIN THE LIVE BROADCASTS

- Join 10 minutes before the broadcast to be ready
- You can join without needing an account – [Watch how here](#)
- For full speaker descriptions visit the [Broadcast Schedule here](#)

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Tues 19 th January 5-6pm LINK TO JOIN	Anthony Salcito, Vice President of Microsoft Worldwide Education for KS4-5/S4-6	In this SFS broadcast, tune in to hear Anthony's thoughts on how technology has impacted education, what skills are important for your future career and get the opportunity to ask your questions!
Wed 20 th January 10-11am LINK TO JOIN	Sophie Darlington, Wildlife Cinematographer for KS3-5/S1-6	Join us to hear Sophie Darlington share insights into what it is like to be a Wildlife Cinematographer. Sophie will be interviewed by SFS on what it was like to work on "Our Planet" and "Perfect Planet", where she gains her inspiration from and will be sharing some top tips on filmmaking. A broadcast not to be missed for students interested in nature and filmmaking.
Wed 20 th January 2-3pm FORM TO SIGN UP	Introduction to Animation & VFX with Industrial Light & Magic for KS3/S1-3	Join Industrial Light and Magic for this ZOOM webinar about what it's like to have a career in VFX! There will be the opportunity to hear from people who work for ILM and how they started in their careers and more about their work. There will be the opportunity to ask the speakers questions too.