



PARENT BULLETIN

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2020

Message from the Principal

A difficult week. Thank you all for your support.

Remember to stay safe, follow the guidance, and above all, be kind to each other. This feels so important right now.

Take care,

Shaun Simmons

Years 8 & 9 Assessment Week

Year 8 and 9 students will be completing assessments in their lessons the week beginning Monday 30th November. Please encourage your child to revise for their assessments so that they can continue to make progress.

Silent Night

With Christmas just over a month away, the Performing Arts department would usually be filled with the sounds of students singing Christmas Carols in preparation for the Annual Carol Concert. With this year looking, and sounding, very different it gives us the opportunity to try new things to spread the Christmas joy. This year, the Performing Arts department are asking students to submit a video of themselves using British Sign Language to sign Silent Night. Mrs Shell has produced a video of how to sign it, which can be found here:

<https://fb.watch/1TdqskDRzB/>

Film yourself at home, in uniform, signing along to the track and send it to sward@marshacademy.org.uk

Please only send a video if you consent to the video being posted on our school website and social media.

Years 11 and 13 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)

A huge congratulations to Year 11&13 who have, today, concluded their full round of Pre-public examinations. Student attitudes, behaviour and commitment throughout this period has been exceptional and we are incredibly proud of their efforts – well done. Attendance has been superb at 96% and whilst we appreciate students are tired, now examinations have finished, the hard work really begins. In lessons staff will be addressing gaps in knowledge, correcting misconceptions and covering the remainder of their syllabi in preparation for GCSE and A-level Public Examinations this coming Summer. We would therefore ask for your support in ensuring your child attends every day for the remainder of the term.

Year 11 Extended Day Revision will recommence on Monday 30th November.

Summer Public Examinations

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) have this week released the final Public Examinations Timetable for Summer 2021 Examinations. GCSE and A-level examinations will commence week beginning the 26th May and run until Friday 2nd July. We would therefore remind you of the importance of any planned holidays, staycations etc being planned during half-term breaks and in line with Government guidance on travel.

Year 7 Reports

Parents and carers will receive their child's progress report next week.

Diary Dates

Monday 14th December – Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 18th December – Last day of Term 2

WEEK NUMBERS TERM 2 2020/2021

Week beginning Monday 23 rd November	Week B
Week beginning Monday 30 th November	Week A
Week Beginning Monday 7 th December	Week B
Week Beginning Monday 14 th December	Week A



'Online Safety Tips'

Inappropriate Content Online – how can you help keep your child safe?

As children become more active online at a younger age, the possibility and probability that they'll see something inappropriate all depends on what they're doing online. Whether it's an explicit pop-up ad on a free game, videos showcasing children's cartoon characters in adult situations, or a forum promoting self-harm, an innocent search can expose children to content that can make them feel upset and confused.

As a parent did you know?

- 56% of 11-16year olds have seen explicit material online.
- 1/3 of British children aged 12-15 have encountered racist or discriminatory content online.
- 1/10 children aged 8-11 who go online said they had seen something nasty or worrying.

As soon as your child starts to use the internet you should begin to talk about what they might find there. Help them understand that sometimes they may come across things that they'd prefer not to see, or that you would prefer they didn't see. Try to have these conversations regularly.

Explain age limits and age-inappropriate sites

Many sites have a minimum age limit of 13 – this includes websites like YouTube and Facebook. Explain to your child that age limits are there to help protect them from unsuitable content.

Agree ground rules

Find out the kind of things your child likes to do online and agree which websites and apps are the best for them to use. These should include the search engines they use to find information. You can switch on Google SafeSearch and set YouTube safe mode to make sure they see age-appropriate results.

Let your child know they can talk to you or a trusted adult if they come across anything that upsets them online. In school they can talk to their Tutor, SDL, MSL or any of the safeguarding team.

Useful websites for parents:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/> - CEOP Reporting inappropriate content

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-helpline/> - Young Minds

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/> - Think u Know



The **BIG** Community CHRISTMAS

In a year like no other, our community are continuing to join together to support **anyone** needing a hand during this Christmas period.

This Christmas are you, or someone you know struggling with:

- Purchase of food
- Purchase of gifts and toys for children
- Loneliness and isolation
- Caring for a family member, friend or neighbour

Do not hesitate to get in touch, just one simple referral could make Christmas much easier.

There is support out there and it is easy to access, either by visiting the web-page and completing the short online form, or by calling

01303 269602 or 01797 208590

All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

www.ageuk.org.uk/hytheandlyminge
www.rmhc.org.uk/christmas2020



The **BIG** Community CHRISTMAS

Could you help us make Christmas special for those who may be finding this year difficult?

Donate Toys New, unwrapped gifts for families in Hythe and Romney Marsh & Surrounding areas can be left at:

Age UK - Stade Street, Hythe
Mon-Fri 9-3 / Sat 10-1

Romney Resource Centre - Mountfield Road NR
Mon-Thur 9-5

Hythe Salvation Army - Portland Road
Wed 10-12 or by appointment

Donate Food Unopened and in date items can be donated at the following locations:

Romney Marsh Community Centre
Tuesdays between 5.30 and 7pm

Lydd Hardy Hall
Fridays between 6.30 and 7.30pm

Collection points also located at
Dymchurch Post Office,
and Sainsbury's Hythe

