



PARENT BULLETIN

FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY 2021

Student Engagement

Firstly, we are delighted to report our user activity on Satchel: One has been above 90% for every Year Group this past week – a huge well done and thank you for your ongoing support whilst your children continue their learning at home.

- Year 7 – 93%
- Year 8 – 92%
- Year 9 – 95%
- Year 10 – 90%
- Year 11 – 93%

We fully appreciate that every individual family's circumstances will be different and some young people have adapted to this way of learning much easier than others. We understand that if your child is struggling and/or there are issues preventing them from engaging fully with online learning, it can be frustrating to receive multiple phone calls/correspondence from staff about this. Please note, that whilst we have a statutory obligation to inform you if your child is missing lessons and/or not engaging with their learning, when doing this we do it always with the child's best interests in mind, and from a supportive angle.

To streamline our communication with you, we have changed our protocol in this respect. Each Monday you will receive an email from your child's Mini School Leader (MSL)/Student Development Leader (SDL) if they have failed to submit work from the week previous. This email will list the subject and the number of pieces of work that have not been submitted. It is hoped that this will help you keep track of what your child is missing and enable you to support them in catching up. Where there are issues and/or you need additional support, you can contact your child's MSL/SDL directly.

Please know we are here to help and support you and appreciate your efforts in supporting with home-learning during these very difficult times. MSLs/SDLs will continue to inform you daily if your child has not attended online lessons from the previous day.

Catch up and Consolidation Afternoon

Next Friday, 5th February, students will have a 'Catch up and Consolidation Afternoon' allowing them time to catch up on any outstanding pieces of work and check that they are up to date with submitting their work on Satchel: One. For students who are up to date with all of their work and submission, we encourage them to spend some time reading for pleasure, preferably away from a screen. If this is not possible, links to online reading materials will be published on Satchel: One for them to choose from. Students will NOT be set additional work during these sessions and will not have any online lessons. **Lessons will finish at 12:30pm next Friday.**

Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening

Parents and carers will shortly receive an email with details on how to book appointments with their child's teachers on the following dates:
Tuesday 23rd February (8D, 8E, 8F, 8W)
Thursday 25th February (8A, 8B, 8C)

Year 9 GCSE Options

Today at 3pm we launched our GCSE Options process to Year 9 parents/carers and students on our Academy Website. Please check your emails for correspondence from Mrs O'Gormley which contains the link you need to access all of the resources. Good luck and enjoy!

Week 4 – Done!

Another full week of remote learning done and what a great week it has been. Students will be getting tired now at this point in the term, particularly given they are not used to sitting at a screen all day. Please encourage them to keep up the hard work, we are incredibly proud of their efforts and engagement so far and would like to remind them that they only have two weeks of term left before they can have a very well deserved rest. A HUGE thank you and well done to them, and also to you, their parents and carers, for your continued support of them and the Academy during these difficult times.

Children's Mental Health week 1st to 7th February

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Express Yourself**. Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good. There are various activities, links and resources at <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/> for you to try at home to help you start conversations with your child, keep them inspired and entertained, and encourage you to spend quality time together, all of which are vital to wellbeing.



Digital Inclusion Fund – Kent Community Foundation

We have been lucky enough to have received a grant from Kent Community Foundation's Digital Inclusion Fund to support the purchase of a further 11 laptops and internet dongles, we are incredibly grateful to KCF for this and their support will enable more of our young people to access learning remotely. A wonderful initiative which you can read more about here: <https://kentcf.org.uk/media>

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
Mon 1st February 10-11am LINK TO JOIN	Dorothy Byrne, Editor-at-large, Channel 4, Chair, Ethical Journalism Network & Former Head of News and Current Affairs, Channel 4 For KS4-5/ S4-6	Join us to hear Dorothy Byrne, Editor-at-large at Channel Four, previously Head of News and Current Affairs, share her insights into her career as a journalist. Dorothy will reflect on how to be successful in the world of work and will question whether we can trust the media.
Tues 2nd February 10-11am LINK TO JOIN	Branko Bjelobaba, Finance and Engaging in Democracy Speaker For KS4 – 5 / S4 – 6	Join us here to hear Branko Bjelobaba, Finance and Engaging in Democracy Speaker, provide an honest approach as to what makes a difference in terms of presenting yourself and how success can follow failure.
Tues 2nd February 2-3pm LINK TO JOIN	Speakers for Schools Experience Nursing Broadcast: Dr Crystal Oldman, CEO, The Queen's Nursing Institute For KS4 – 5 / S4 – 6	Join Speakers for Schools for our first Experience Nursing Broadcast with Dr Crystal Oldman CBE. Dr Crystal Oldman CBE joined the Queen's Nursing Institute in November 2012 as Chief Executive. Crystal worked in the NHS for 18 years, the majority of which was in the field of community nursing, working with some of the most deprived communities in west London.
Thurs 4th February 2-3pm LINK TO JOIN	Penguin Talks in Partnership with Speakers for Schools: How to motivate yourself, with Adrienne Herbert and Alice Living For KS4 – 5 / S4 – 6	Leading wellness professional, podcast host and author of The Power Hour, Adrienne Herbert joins personal trainer, blogger and best-selling author, Alice Living to discuss how students can motivate themselves and maintaining their wellbeing during lockdown



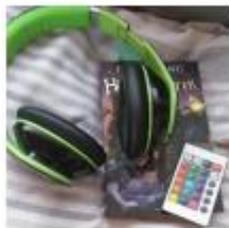
The Marsh Academy Student Wellbeing



Katie 9B has been busy in the kitchen making Fruit Loaf and a birthday cake for her older brother.



Charlie 8D played the games Rummikub and Pontoon with his Grandmother. Let's hope he didn't 'let' her win!



Samantha 7B has been reading Harry Potter and listening to music

Grace 7C along with watching a bit of TV and FaceTiming her best friend Daisy has started reading her new Shirley Ballas book.



Jorjeana 7D is getting creative with her artwork.





Leandro 7E enjoying playing football with his little brother in between rain showers!



Mac 9D spent an afternoon cooking.



Oakley 11D – can you guess what it is going to be?



Daisy 7C has been really productive.



Katie 7D made this Coffee and Walnut Cake – we agree that licking the spoon is one of the chef's perks.

