



PARENT BULLETIN

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2020

Message from the Principal

Thank you all for your support this week. I know it seems we have had more cases in the last couple of weeks and we have also had to close the SRP for self-isolation. However, the cases we have had, do not seem to have been linked through school, so this could have been far worse if students were not following our strict COVID rules, so thank you for this.

Take care,

Shaun Simmons

Year 11 Parents Evening

All Year 11 parents/carers should have received information on how to book appointments for our virtual parents' evening on **Monday 14th December**. Please book your appointments by Wednesday 9th December and if you are having difficulties booking your appointments or unable to attend please contact ldommett@marshacademy.org.uk. This is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and recent performance in their PPEs with their teachers. **A reminder that there will be timer of 5 minutes on each appointment which will automatically cut out.** This is preprogrammed and we are unable to add time. If you need to discuss an issue that will require more time, please let us know and we can arrange a call back. On the evening itself if you experience any technical difficulties and need support please email itsupport@marshacademy.org.uk. This was very successful with our Year 9 students last month and we are delighted that technology can assist in keeping communication between the Academy and families active. If you are cut off and unable to reconnect, don't worry we will get in touch. We have also received feedback that the software works better on a smart phone/tablet. You will also receive a survey to complete after the evening. Any feedback you have will be greatly appreciated.

Footwear for Physical Education

In line with our COVID-19 Risk Assessment, we have adapted our PE curriculum to ensure the delivery of Physical Education is in line with Government guidance. Where possible, it has been advised for Physical Education to take place outdoors, whilst typically students would not do PE outdoors if the weather conditions are poor, given the season it is expected that the ground will be wet and may result in students having wet/muddy feet following their PE lesson. We therefore advise all students to bring a spare pair of trainers and/or school shoes and socks to put on after their PE lessons. It is recommended that students also bring a kit bag/carrier bag to put their wet/muddy shoes into before storing in their school bag.

Year 11 Pre-public Examination (PPE) Results

Year 11 students will receive their PPE results on Monday 14th December during a results' afternoon with their tutors and the Year 11 Team. Students will leave the Academy as normal at 3pm in preparation for Year 11 Parents' Evening. **Extended Day revision will NOT run on Monday 14th December.**

Careers information for parents: Success Beyond School

InvestIN are hosting a 'live' parents evening on Thursday 10th December 2020 at 7.30pm, where top employers from some of the most competitive careers' sectors will be talking about the most in-demand employability skills, how you can help your child, guidance on work experience, interview techniques and much more. If you are interested and would like to find out more please download the attached file. By clicking the 'Register Now' button it will take you to a page with more information and a further button to register.

Diary Dates

14th December – Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 18th December – Last day of Term 2 - 1230 finish

WEEK NUMBERS TERM 2 2020/2021

Week Beginning Monday 7 th December	Week B
Week Beginning Monday 14 th December	Week A



'Online Safety Tips'

Social media can be a great place for young people to express themselves and connect with others. However, it does come with risks such as exposure to harmful content, which includes online sexual images or videos. A [YouGov and BBFC survey](#) into children's viewing during lockdown found that a quarter (24%) of 14 year olds see harmful content on a daily basis.

You can support your child by talking about the type of content they might see online. Ongoing conversations about what this content means to them, will help your child to develop healthy attitudes to sex, relationships and body image.

- **Stay positive.** Most young people will have positive experiences on social media. Young people are more likely to listen to the risks if you provide them with a balanced view of being online.
- **Talk about stereotypes.** Explain that the media (including social media) can portray stereotypes of how women and men should look and act. Discuss how these might make people feel. If your child makes stereotypical comments, challenge them and explain why they're inappropriate. More tips can be found in this ['Are gender stereotypes holding back your child?'](#) article.
- **Help them to identify what's real and what's not.** Social media feeds can give young people the impression that everyone else has a beautiful body and perfect life. Talk about the fact that people's lives are often edited and filtered on social media. Ditch the label's ['Are you living an Insta lie?'](#) video could help you start the conversation.
- **Let them know that they can talk to you if anything makes them feel uncomfortable.** Some content, particularly if it's nude images, can make young people feel uncomfortable. It's important that they know to seek help (no matter how embarrassing) if they see anything which worries them.
- **Discuss when to unfollow, block or report** –Talk about how what they see online makes them feel, and how they can stop seeing posts which are having a negative impact on them.

Links can be found at thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/teens-and-the-sexual-content-on-social-media/ and please do contact your child's SDL or MSL if you are concerned about any content they are accessing through social media.

Kind Donation

Big thank you to a member of the local business community for their kind donation of £500 to the school. The money will be used for revision guides to support Year 10 and 11 students with exams.



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 logo features the text 'The BIG Community CHRISTMAS' in a stylized font. 'The' is in white, 'BIG' is in large white letters, 'Community' is in white script, and 'CHRISTMAS' is in large red letters with a white outline. There are holly leaves and berries on either side.

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

Three logos are displayed: The Salvation Army (a red shield with a white cross), age UK (a blue and red logo), and Romney Marsh Community Support Hub (a blue circular logo with white text). There are holly leaves and berries on either side.