



## PARENT BULLETIN

FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

### Message from the Principal

This has been another hard week for everyone and I know how many of our families are already finding lockdown difficult. We are trying our best to remain open for all students and to offer as much normality as possible, but it is difficult. Student attendance has been remarkably high in the circumstances (about 90% this week) but even the absence of a relatively small number of staff who are rightly isolating or who are themselves vulnerable, has an impact. Especially as staff already feel the same anxieties we all do, have increased their workload to ensure each classroom is COVID secure and are trying to ensure we provide remote learning for absent students, in addition to their normal teaching, so please be patient with us if there are times we are not quite as efficient as you would normally expect.

In a recent bulletin I highlighted how inspiring our Health and Social Care students were through their efforts to communicate with some of our older community and combat loneliness at this time. I would also like to thank our staff who supported some of our families last week by delivering food parcels and this week supporting families in local caravan parks, for whom lockdown could be more challenging than for many. It is this sense of community that was abundant during the first lockdown and I hope shines through again this time. Next Friday (13<sup>th</sup>!!) is, I believe, World Kindness Day. Perhaps a good opportunity for us all to reflect.

Finally, with the updated Department for Education guidance that was published after school on Wednesday for implementation on Thursday, we already meet the new standards expected to remain secure during the lockdown which is pleasing. I would also like to ask that you all reiterate to your child that following COVID guidelines is even more important now. In particular, the importance of going straight home after school and not congregating in the community.

Take care,  
Shaun Simmons

### Years 11 and 13 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)

PPEs for Years 11 and 13 will start on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. All students have been provided with copies of their individual PPE Timetable, students must bring this with them to all examinations. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns. Some parents have contacted us with regards to the volume of examinations in one day, students will usually have a maximum of two examinations but unfortunately in some cases, students may sit three exams in a day. We appreciate this is not ideal but have done this to minimise student absence from lessons. Students will of course have their normal break and lunch.

Students have had an assembly outlining expectations for the examinations, this will also be shared with all students on Satchel One should you wish to review it. Result of PPEs will be shared with students, parents and carers on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We hope this will be in person but will provide you with more information nearer the time.

### Year 9 Parents' Evening

All Year 9 parents/carers should have booked appointments for our virtual parents' evening on **9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November**. If you have been unable to book or attend please contact [ldommett@marshacademy.org.uk](mailto:ldommett@marshacademy.org.uk).

This is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teachers and we are looking forward to hosting our first virtual parents' evening. **A reminder that there will be timer of 5 minutes on each appointment which will automatically cut out.** This is preprogramed 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. If you experience any technical difficulties and need support please email [itsupport@marshacademy.org.uk](mailto:itsupport@marshacademy.org.uk).

This has been successful with other local schools but there may be technical difficulties where internet signals are poor. This is the first time we are using this approach so please be patient with us. 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.



### Online Safety Tip

#### Apps that you need to know about

Check out the apps that your child may be using. Keep up to date, as these can change regularly. They may not all be as innocent as they seem.



### Students Calling Home

Please remind your child that if they are feeling unwell or need to contact home for any reason, they **MUST** go to the Student Office and not contact you directly using their mobile phone. If your child contacts you asking you to collect them from school please ensure you contact the school before coming to collect them.

### Equipment

Please ensure your child continues to come to the Academy fully equipped and ready to learn by ensuring they have the following:

Pencil case - clearly labelled with their name and group	
A schoolbag	Highlighter(s)
2x pencils, a rubber and sharpener	2x black or blue pens and a red pen
Ruler	Glue Stick
Scissors (safety ones)	Water bottle (Labelled)
Protractor	Pair of Compasses
Scientific calculator preferably a Casio fx-83GTx	

Thank you for your continued support.

### Young People's Mental Health

Looking after our mental health is as important as looking after our physical health. If you feel that a young person needs support, please look at these links. Both provide insight and support into many areas, including anxiety and depression.

<https://healthyyoungmindspennine.nhs.uk/resource-centre/apps/>  
<https://www.kooth.com/video>

### Diary Dates

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Year 9 Parents' Evening (1)  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Year 9 Parents' Evening (2)

WEEK NUMBERS TERM 2 2020/2021	
W/C Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Week B
W/C Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Week A
W/C Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Week B
W/C Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Week A
W/C Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Week B
W/C Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Week A

