



PARENT BULLETIN

FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY 2021

Message from the Principal

We have made it to the end of a week that in many ways feels like a whole term. I will not go into detail again on the areas that I have already written to you on separately, but want to say to students impacted by the cancellation of exams that we do not yet know what is happening and probably will not for a few more weeks, so try not to take too much notice of speculation in the media; just keep working and doing your best. We will let you know when we know. I also want to thank the staff who are delivering remote lessons, of course this is a challenge and there have been teething issues, but overall I have been so impressed by what we have been able to offer our students. At KS3 we are moving away from whole year group lessons, so lessons will be in smaller groups and allow for better interaction with teachers, but to balance this some lessons will not be delivered live or will have work set on Satchel:One. I think this gives the right balance, but we will keep under review.

You may have seen that the Secretary of State for Education last week, told parents that were unhappy with the remote learning being provided by their child's school should 'report them to Ofsted'. This seemed a little heavy handed given that less than a week ago, students were still planning to attend school, but it was interesting to note that over the weekend, Ofsted took down their email address after being swamped with over 5,000 emails from parents telling them how good their child's school was.

I am surely biased, but this felt like a positive sign that schools were getting it right. I am not sure it is helpful to fill up Ofsted's inbox, so if you would like to express what you think of the school, the best way to do this is through the Ofsted Parent View website copied below. We try to encourage parents to do this so that they have an up to date and balanced view of what our community think, so I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to fill it in if you have time. Take care. Shaun Simmons



<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views/survey/22778>

Remote Learning

Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported their child with remote learning. The first week is always the most challenging and we apologise if you had to wait for correspondence regarding support with IT. As you can imagine, there were a high volume of calls and emails to support setting students up. If you do experience any technical difficulties with the online lessons, work is also set on Satchel One which should hopefully enable students to continue with their learning. If you are waiting for a device, we will be in contact next week when they are ready to collect. Thank you for your patience.

Resources

Resources we can supply if you need them:

- Exercise books
- Pens
- Pencils
- Paper (Lined and plain)
- Calculator
- Geometry set
- Highlighters
- Glue
- Sharpener
- Ruler

If your child requires any resources to support with their learning then please get in touch via info@marshacademy.org.uk

Free School Meals

The government have promised a national voucher scheme for students eligible for Free School Meals, but unfortunately have not given us any more information yet. Until this is set up, please get in touch with us if you need support and we will do our best to provide a food parcel for you.

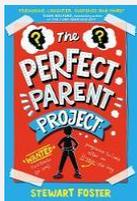
Maths/English GCSE Resit Results

Students who sat their Maths and/or English GCSE Resit in November will receive their results via email before midday on Thursday 14th January. Please contact our examinations officer (ldommett@marshacademy.org.uk) if your child would like a hard copy of their results and we will arrange for these to be collected from Reception.

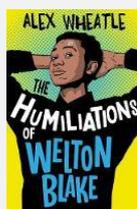
Big Read Newsletter

We are pleased to announce The Marsh Academy were selected, and have received, a donation of brilliant books from the Book Trust, through their Book Buzz programme. Aimed at students aged 11 - 13, Book Buzz aims to support and encourage reading for pleasure in schools.

January 2021 - New Book Releases:



***The Perfect Parent Project* by Stewart Foster** - Stewart Foster has made an award-winning name for himself as an author who writes stories which provide real insights into other lives, often with characters who must negotiate some quite challenging emotional territory. This fourth novel takes him into some very personal history having been a foster carer himself, and tells the story of Sam McCann, a boy who longs for a permanent home and a real family. (Release date: 21/01/2021)



***The Humiliations of Welton Blake* by Alex Wheatle** - Fresh, funny and authentic, readers will truly root for Welton - while he's one of a kind, his voice and experiences will resonant far and wide. What's more, being published by Barrington Stoke, this zesty page-turner is highly readable and produced with reluctant and dyslexic readers in mind, with manageable chapter lengths, a specially selected font and cream paper. (Release date: 07/01/2021)



***Dragon Eyes* by Cao Wenxuan** - Ah-Mei and her French grandmother, Nainai, share a rare bond. Maybe because Ah-Mei is the only girl grandchild, or maybe because the pair look so alike - and because neither look much like the rest of their Chinese family. (Release date: 07/01/2021)



***Nevertheless She Persisted* by Jon Walter** - Clara and Nancy both have choices to make. Two sisters, working in a women's prison in 1913; many of the inmates they are faced with have been arrested for their actions as part of the suffragette movement. For Nancy, there's one inmate in particular – the enigmatic Duchess – who she finds herself drawn to, following the Duchess' lead into the fight for the right to vote. (Release date: 07/01/2021)

Kent Libraries

Joining Kent Libraries is free and open to everyone. You only need to register online if you have not already done so at a library.

Joining online will provide you with a basic library membership that will enable you to use online resources, such as e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and e-newspapers.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries>

Please note that if requesting a library card for anyone under the age of 16, a parent or guardian must complete the online registration form, including the guarantor registration section.

Recommended reading lists for Year 7 & 8 have been put on Satchel1