



7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers and Students,

### Headteacher Update

Since the government's announcement that schools will now be closed until at least 22 February 2021, staff at Marshland High School have been working hard to ensure we can continue student education. I would like to take this opportunity of sharing our ambition for teaching during lockdown.

### Safeguarding

Firstly, if you have any safeguarding concerns regarding the wellbeing or safety of any Marshland student we ask that you contact us immediately on the school mobile: 07375 646648. Please leave a clear message including the nature of the concern, your name and your contact details. A member of our safeguarding team will get back to you as soon as possible.

### Remote Learning

We have made changes to our support for remote learning, based on previous lockdowns and self-isolation. Children in school at home will be following the same programme.

- All students will follow their normal 2021 school timetable every day from Monday 11 January 2020. For example, an English lesson period 3 (11:40am to 12:40pm) on a Tuesday in school, will be a remote English lesson at home.
- All children should have a copy of their school timetable, and it is always available on 'Show My Homework'.
- Our website has videos under ["Learning" and "Student Apps"](#) for Google Classroom and other useful apps.
- All students are expected to attend their tutor group from 8:45am in the morning, arriving promptly. Tutors will register students to help confirm they are ready to start their learning each day. Tutors will also take the opportunity to check student wellbeing, online learning progress, any problems or safeguarding concerns.
- If a student wishes to discuss anything of a personal nature then we will arrange for a pastoral manager to make contact. The pastoral team will also follow up students that do not attend sessions.
- Live Lessons - All teaching staff have the ambition to provide 'live' remote learning for the majority of lessons. This will mean for some lessons students will have the teacher 'live' for the majority of the lesson to introduce new concepts as well as to check learning or understanding. Other lessons may consist of a shorter 'live' element, for example, a 10 minute introduction followed by online learning tasks to complete independently. Students should not expect their teacher to be 'live' online for all of every lesson, but they will endeavour to provide a 'live' element to as many of the lessons that they can.
- Behaviour - We are proud of the excellent behaviour the vast majority of our students demonstrate each and every day, and expect the same level of good behaviour within remote and 'live' lessons as we would do in school. I am sure our students will not let themselves or their school down with their behaviour.

This said, any unacceptable behaviours will be challenged and appropriate sanctions implemented.

- No part of any live lessons should be captured or shared by students through recording or screenshots.
- It is important that only the class student should participate in any 'live' lesson. It is unacceptable for a parent/carer, sibling or other person to interrupt or seek to participate in lessons.
- Teachers will keep track of student attendance. Contact will be made with the home if there are concerns about attendance, completion of work or in connection with other aspects of engagement.
- We ask that parents and students show understanding that our staff will be balancing the challenges of working from home with the need to support the education of children at our school. For example, there will be a small minority of our teaching staff that will be unable to offer 'live' lessons due to their own family circumstances.
- Teaching staff who are on the weekly duty rota in school will NOT be able to offer any 'live' lesson support to remote learners, other than tutor time. They will however ensure that work is set and available for all lessons in Google Classroom.
- Students attending school will be undertaking the same 'remote learning' as all other students working from home. They will be supervised and assisted by the duty teaching and support staff.

### **Equipment to Access Learning**

We aim to lend computer equipment to those families that need them. For example, if you do not have a computer in the family home we can supply one. If there are several children in the family home but only one computer we will endeavour to supply additional equipment to you. ICT should not be a barrier to children engaging with their work at home. Immediate action required: If your child does not have access to a computer or the internet at home or your child has lost their login details:

- Contact Mr Lucas by email on [d.lucas@marshlandhigh.co.uk](mailto:d.lucas@marshlandhigh.co.uk) or
- Telephone reception between 9am and 12noon on 01945 584146 or
- At any other time on the school mobile for technical issues only on 07539 066451, leaving your name and contact details.

Appropriate equipment to be loaned to students at home and will be assessed on a needs basis. In the first instance, we will prioritise those families with no facilities. In addition to this letter, a text message will also be sent to all parents to advise them to contact the school as soon as possible if they need help with computer equipment.

### **Vulnerable Students and Children of Key Workers**

From Monday 11th January the school will operate a staff duty rota for a limited number of staff to support our vulnerable students and children of key workers who are attending school. This rota will be published on the school website. Staffing will be kept to a minimum and change on a weekly basis to minimise the risk of any viral transmission.

It is expected that vulnerable students, as identified by the school, will be required to attend school as normal. Children of key workers, as defined by the government, can request a place at school if this is necessary for Years 7, 8 or 9 only. Year 10 and 11 students are old enough and responsible enough to work independently at home without parental

supervision. Despite this, if any Year 10 or 11 parent feels they need a school place for their child they should, in the first instance, email the Deputy Headteacher, Mr Duce [t.duce@marshlandhigh.co.uk](mailto:t.duce@marshlandhigh.co.uk) explaining their need.

For those entitled to transport into school, this will continue through lockdown for children authorised to attend. We will be providing a limited choice of hot and cold food to children entitled to Free School Meals and they will be asked to choose on Monday. Children of key workers who would like to buy food should have sufficient money on their account and let us know from a menu in the morning what they would like to buy.

### **Lateral Flow COVID Testing**

We would like to thank all the parents who have provided permission to carry out lateral flow testing so far. Children in school during lockdown, where permission has been provided, will be checked up to twice a week, along with all staff on site to minimise risk of transmission. The children have been helpfully participating in the tests so far this week and we will only contact parents and students if we receive a positive result.

### **Vaccinations Programme**

We were due to support the School Immunisation Team with Year 8/9 HPV and Y10 Meningitis/DPV vaccinations, but unfortunately due to lockdown these have been cancelled. If you would like to register for both boys and girls in Years 8 & 9 for HPV, the portal is open until 19 February 2021 with jabs taking place later in the school year.

Finally, if you have any other concerns, or need any other support then please contact your child's pastoral manager and we will try to assist in any way we can.

We wish you and your family the best of health at this most challenging of times.

Take care

Yours sincerely  
Mr Craig Jansen  
Headteacher