



23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent, Carers and Students

### **Marshland Update**

We have now completed the first half term of our “new normal”. This has involved a huge effort by all our students and staff to make sure that we reduce risk to stay safe and healthy. The children have adapted very well to all our new procedures and it is a delight to see them all in school and learning again. I would personally like to thank all our staff, students and parents for their efforts in a very challenging time for us all.

I’m pleased to say that attendance at school has been very positive when compared to the national picture. I would like to congratulate Year 7 on maintaining a 98% attendance record throughout this half term. Well done! In some other years there is still work to be done, in particular Year 11 where attendance is not looking so positive. I would like to remind parents that students must attend school every day unless they are displaying COVID symptoms, are self-isolating or are too unwell to attend. It is so important for a student’s welfare that they are attending school, especially given that through no fault of their own, they have missed a large amount of formal education this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of uniform expectations prior to the start of the new half term.

### **School Skirts and Trousers - Years 10 and 11**

It is the expectation that skirts are on or below the knee. Many Year 10 and 11 skirts are too short. Girls will be challenged on this next term if a skirt is too short and I would suggest that those students who know their skirts don’t meet expectations purchase a replacement skirt or trousers over the holiday. Trousers should be plain black, not tight / skinny legs or leggings / jeggings or denim.

### **All years – Jewellery, nails and shoes**

Students are allowed stud-style earrings in the ear lobe only. Please no piercings other than the ear lobe, or false eyelashes or fake nails. Shoes need to be leather or leather-look (no canvas or trainer style) and should not include large shiny buckles or trims.

### **Year 7, 8 and 9 Uniform**

The new shipment of uniform is expected to arrive very shortly, allowing outstanding orders to be fulfilled for correct items. Parents of any new starters this year will also then be able to purchase directly from the Price & Buckland’s website.

## Student Wellbeing

As you may be aware from information in the press there are nationwide concerns regarding children's mental health from the impact of lockdown. As a result, we are about to undertake a mental health audit of all students to help us plan our strategy. We already support mental health and wellbeing through lessons, assemblies and work with our pastoral team, and we always aim to improve our practice by listening to our students. Your child can expect to receive a questionnaire next half term via their school Gmail account. Please encourage them to complete this when they receive it.

We will also be auditing student access to digital devices for completing school work in the event of a temporary closure. Students are already accessing Google classroom, watching lessons recorded by our science team on YouTube, and live teaching sessions, as well as becoming more familiar with email. I would ask you to encourage your child to use these technologies, as well as traditional homework, as part of a "blended" and flexible learning experience.

We have recently updated our [Relationships and Sex Education Policy](#) in line with government guidance which you can find on our website. You are welcome to have a look and email comments or questions to [office@marshlandhigh.co.uk](mailto:office@marshlandhigh.co.uk) with the subject line of your email "RSE Policy". Year 7 parents have been sent an email by Miss Beatty with an offer to view teaching resources.

The school has volunteered to be part of a national school COVID-19 infection survey operated by Public Health England and the Office for National Statistics. This will involve regular testing for students in Years 7 and 8, and staff who work with them. This will be entirely voluntary and aims to test students for COVID-19 and COVID-19 antibodies so that it can be monitored across schools in the UK. Year 7 and 8 parents will receive an information sheet followed (next week) by a link to register to participate. The independent team is aiming to start tests week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Finally it leaves me to welcome Mr Jansen back into school from Monday 2nd November, meaning I will be returning to my role as Deputy Headteacher. I would like to personally thank the staff, the senior leadership team, parents and students who have supported me during my time as Acting Headteacher.

I would like to wish all our students a very restful and safe half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 2 November.

Yours faithfully



Mr Duce  
Deputy Headteacher